

COMHAIRLE CONTAIFÉ ÁTHA CLIATH THEAS
SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of South Dublin County Council December 2025 County Council
Meeting held on Monday 8th December 2025.

PRESENT

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

OFFICIALS PRESENT

Chief Executive	C. Ward.
Directors	J. Frehill, E. Burke, T. Walsh, E. Leech, L. Maxwell, R. FitzGerald, T. Kavanagh
County Architect	C. Harte
Senior Executive Officer	B. Shannon
Communications Manager	D. Healy
Administrative Officer	M. Reilly
Senior Staff Officer	K. McLoughlin
Staff Officer	P. Mens
Assistant Staff Officer	A. Holohan

The Mayor, Councillor P. Kearns, presided.

Apologies were received from Councillor Britto Pereppadan.

WEBCASTING NOTICE

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

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

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

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

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

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

H1/1225 CONFIRMATION AND REAFFIRMATION OF MINUTES - FOR APPROVAL

Minutes of the November Council Meeting held on 10th November 2025 and Annual Budget Meeting held on Thursday 13 November 2025, which have been circulated were submitted and **APPROVED** as a true record and signed in the proposition of Councillor P. Kearns and seconded by Councillor F. Timmons and the members **AGREED**.

- (a) November 2025 Annual Budget Minutes**
- (b) November 2025 Council Minutes**

At this point, the Mayor, Councillor P. Kearns proposed, and the Members **AGREED** to vary the sequence of items on the agenda to take Headed Item No. 10 (**H10**) next and welcomed Mr Martin Nolan, Chair of the Audit Committee to the meeting.

H10/1225 AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT ON CONSIDERATION OF AUDITED AFS & LG AUDITORS REPORT - FOR APPROVAL

The report, which had been circulated, was presented by Mr. Martin Nolan, Chair of Audit Committee and was **CONSIDERED**.

[HL10 Audit Committee Report to Council on audited AFS 2024](#)

The report was proposed by Councillor P. Kearns, seconded by Councillor R. Mannion and **AGREED**.

H2/1225 REPORTS OF AREA COMMITTEES - FOR NOTING

a) Rathfarnham/Templeogue/Firhouse/Bohernabreena Area Committee

Dealing with Public Realm, Water & Drainage, Housing, Community, Planning, Economic Development, Libraries & Arts, Corporate Support, Performance & Change Management.

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

b) Clondalkin Area Committee

Dealing with Public Realm, Water & Drainage, Housing, Community, Planning, Economic Development, Libraries & Arts, Corporate Support, Performance & Change Management.

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

c) Tallaght Area Committee

Dealing with Public Realm, Water & Drainage, Housing, Community, Planning, Economic Development, Libraries & Arts, Corporate Support, Performance & Change Management.

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

d) Lucan/Palmerstown/North Clondalkin Area Committee

Dealing with Public Realm, Water & Drainage, Housing, Community, Planning, Economic Development, Libraries & Arts, Corporate Support, Performance & Change Management.

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

H3/1225

STANDING COMMITTEES ORGANISATION, PROCEDURE & FINANCE - FOR APPROVAL

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

HI 3 (a) Draft Calendar December 2025 to February 2026

HI 3 (b) Nomination to South Dublin Local Community Development Committee

HI 3 (c) Report on Conferences and Training

HI 3 (d)(i) Review of Standing Orders in relation to Motions

HI 3 (d)(ii) Proposed amendments to Standing Orders

HI 3 (e)(ii) Draft Flag Policy

HI 3 (f) Mayor's Reception

HI 3(g) Shamrock Rovers Reception

The reports were **APPROVED** on the proposition of Councillor P. Kearns and seconded by Councillor E. Murphy and **AGREED**.

H4/1225

STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEES - FOR NOTING

a) Arts, Culture, Gaeilge, Heritage and Libraries SPC

HI 4 (a)(i) Report of Arts, Culture, Gaeilge, Heritage and Libraries SPC Meeting held on 5th November 2025

HI 4 (a)(ii) Minutes of Arts, Culture, Gaeilge, Heritage and Libraries SPC Meeting held on 3rd September 2025

b) Environment, Public Realm and Climate Change SPC

HI 4 (b)(i) Report of the Environment, Public Realm and Climate Change SPC meeting 3rd November 2025

HI 4 (b)(ii) Minutes of the Environment, Public Realm and Climate Change SPC Meeting held on 2nd September 2025

c) Economic Development, Enterprise and Tourism SPC

HI 4 (c)(i) Report of Economic Enterprise Tourism SPC held on 12th November, 2025

HI 4 (c)(ii) Minutes of the Economic Development, Enterprise and Tourism SPC held on 10th September, 2025.

d) Housing SPC

HI 4 (d) (i) Report of the Housing SPC held 19th November 2025

HI 4 (d) (ii) Minutes of the Housing SPC held 11th September 2025

e) Social, Community, Equality SPC

HI 4 (e)(i) Report of the Social Community Equality and Integration SPC 12th November 2025

HI 4 (e)(ii) Minutes of the Social Community Equality and Integration SPC 10th September 2025

f) Land Use, Planning & Transportation SPC

HI 4(f) Minutes of (Sept) Oct 2025 LUPT SPC

The reports were **NOTED**.

H5/1225

REPORTS REQUESTED BY AREA COMMITTEES - FOR NOTING

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

QUESTIONS

It was proposed by Councillor P. Kearns and seconded by Councillor F. Timmons and **RESOLVED**:

“That pursuant to Standing Order No. 22, Questions numbered Q1 – Q28 be ADOPTED and APPROVED”

Q1/1225

Councillor D. Adelaide

To ask the Chief Executive if the current contract for road sweeping is on track for a 10% reduction annually in the use of glyphosate based herbicide?

REPLY:

South Dublin County Council is committed to reducing the use of glyphosate in its maintenance operations. A partial ban on glyphosate adopted by the elected members in July 2017 remains in place and is enforced in public parks, gardens, and play spaces. In these areas weed growth is managed through hand removal, strimming, mowing or by allowing vegetation to grow to promote biodiversity. Complementing these measures the Council has significantly shifted its approach to open space management since 2019 with over 210 hectares of meadows (long and short flowering meadows) now in place across the county. This supports biodiversity and aligns with the aims of the Council's Pollinator, Biodiversity and Climate Action Plans.

Glyphosate-based herbicides are currently used by the Council's Public Realm Operations Section primarily on high profile entrance roads into the county and in the provision of the road sweeping services contract for the control of weeds on hard surface areas. The usage of herbicides is decreasing in the Council's maintenance operations with a 13% reduction in usage over the three years from

2022 to '24 as previously reported. On 1st October 2025, the Council entered into a new contract for road sweeping services including weed control and this is the single largest user of herbicide in the Council's maintenance operations. A requirement has been included in the new contract for a 10% reduction annually in the use of glyphosate based herbicide through the control of weeds by alternative environmentally friendly means and this will reduce the Council's use of glyphosate by half over the life of the contract. This reflects the Council's proactive efforts to minimise reliance on glyphosate in line with the Sustainable Use of Pesticides Directive as well as our own Biodiversity, Pollinator and Climate Action Plans. The council is confident that the required reduction in use of glyphosate is achievable through the life of the contract. As the use of glyphosate is seasonal, initial evidence of the reduction is expected mid-2026.

Q2/1225

Councillor Y. Collins

To ask the Chief Executive for details of revenue raised by fines under both Litter Pollution and Waste Management legislation, in tabular form by LEA, from 2022 to date

REPLY:

All incidents of illegal dumping reported or detected in any area are investigated by the Council's Litter Warden Service and all dumped material is searched for evidence. Where evidence is found, the appropriate enforcement action is taken under the Litter Pollution Act 1997, as amended. Increasingly, it is found that no personal information relating to polluters is contained within the dumped material, with personal information having been removed or shredded.

The Environmental Complaints System operated by SDCC provides a statistical breakdown by designated Litter Warden areas.

The total number of complaints made under the Litter Pollution Act 1997 and investigated by the Litter Warden service from 2022 to date was 6,045.

Fines issued under the Waste Management Act 1996, as amended and its ensuing regulations are focused on permit holders and compliance with same.

Please see below table of revenue raised by fines for the period 2022 – date. The revenue raised by fines is not recorded by area only by total.

	Litter	Waste
2022	€25,700.00	€16,200.00
2023	€25,400.00	€35,675.00
2024	€19,030.00	€29,025.00
2025 (to Oct)	€17,210.00	€12,100.00
Total	€87,340.00	€93,000.00

Q3/1225

Councillor N. Fennell

To ask the Chief Executive to detail the progress of this council's retrofitting programme of own stock to date?

REPLY:

The purpose of the Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme (EERP) is to bring properties with low energy efficiency rating to a building energy rating (BER) of B2. The works to each property can include combination of new window and doors, upgrading on existing building fabric insulation and the installation of energy efficient air to water heating systems. Funding and deliverable targets are provided by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

For 2025, a funding allocation of €2.82m has been approved to facilitate retrofit works on 83 properties. This substantial investment demonstrates the continued commitment to improving the energy performance of our social housing stock.

To date, the Planned Maintenance Team has successfully delivered energy retrofit works across a total of 393 residential properties, meeting the target set for this year and delivering significant energy efficiencies for our social housing tenants. Works have commenced on an additional 50 properties, and detailed energy performance surveys have been completed on 83 homes with specifications to be drafted for tender.

The council has also made provision of €5m expenditure in our 3 year Capital Programme 2025-2027 for window and door replacement in our social housing stock.

Progress on the Windows and Doors Programme is outlined below:

Local Electoral Area	Pre-Tender	Tender	Commenced	Complete	Total
Tallaght South	0	14	7	383	404
Tallaght Central	0	3	0	80	83
Firhouse Bohernabreena	0	8	2	61	71
Rathfarnham Templeogue	0	2	0	13	15
Clondalkin	0	6	1	82	89
Palmerstown Fonthill	0	28	2	98	128
Lucan	0	9	1	15	25
Total	0	70	13	732	815

Q4/1225

Councillor N. Fennell

To ask the Chief Executive to detail its strategy toward solar PV installation of existing housing, apartment complexes and future developments. Report to include current budget and projected annual budget allocation between now and 2030.

REPLY:

Photovoltaic solar panels have not been installed as part of the council's energy efficiency retrofit programme to date. The programme's objective is to achieve a Building Energy Rating (BER) of B2, and the installation of PV panels is currently not required to satisfy this rating requirement.

The use of PV panels on SDCC's housing projects is determined on a case-by-case basis. However, in most cases, PV panels are required in order for a project to achieve an A1 or A2 BER rating, which is the performance standard for SDCC's new build developments.

Q5/1225

Councillor N. Fennell

To ask the Chief Executive for an update on this Council's existing District Heating Scheme project developments, detailing the further long-term plans to progress and expand this now hugely important energy saving measure.

REPLY:

Heatworks (Tallaght District Heating Scheme) has been operational since 2023. Phase 1A customers at TUD Main Campus, TUD Sport Centre and SDCC County Hall, as well as Phase 1B connections at CAET building TUD, Work IQ and the 133 Cost Rental apartments at Innovation Square are now all connected to the District Heating (DH) network and heat supply has been reliable and consistent. In Sept 2025, SDCC received additional Climate Action funding (CAF) from Dept of Climate, Energy and the Environment (DCEE) of €467k to cover 50% of the increased cost of the project. DH Phase 1 is now complete with all CAF Phase 1 funding in the sum of €4.9m received from DCEE.

The development of the network continues with the addition of Thermal Storage solution at the Energy Centre progressing to tender in early 2026. This will allow mitigation of demand fluctuations, improve response solutions, and increase access to low-cost renewable electricity supply sources particularly at night. Expanding the customer base and incorporating thermal -storage capabilities are crucial steps for the system to achieve maximum operational efficiency and lower costs to customers.

New network pipes have recently been installed through the Airton Road extension road construction project and have been pressure tested and filled with gas for connection of future Phase 2 customers at the key development lands at Cookstown/Hospital. Development of Phase 2 is being pursued, and funding has been awarded to the project for development of the Phase 2 model under EU Interreg RODEO Programme which commenced in Jan 2025.

Discussions are advancing with DCEE in relation to finalising CAF Funding for Tallaght District Heating Scheme Phase 2 which will see the completion of the envisaged 10MW network.

Preliminary feasibility analysis is being carried out for an industrial heat network at Grange Castle Business Park and heat supply being delivered through a DH scheme and powered by waste heat from Grange Castle for residential development in the area.

SDCC has delivered a successful 'proof of concept' District Heating scheme in Tallaght and continues to work with the Department of Climate, Energy & Environment, SEAI and Codema to advance District Heating projects in the county.

Q6/1225

Councillor P. Holohan

To ask the Chief Executive what is the threshold/criteria for a housing transfer on compassionate grounds?

REPLY:

Housing transfers considered under exceptional circumstances are typically related to an urgent and immediate requirement to relocate a tenant, where the need extends beyond the standard eligibility categories (e.g., overcrowding, rightsizing, or medical grounds).

The council must be satisfied that all other reasonable options have been explored and are feasible and each application is assessed on a case by case basis.

All applicants seeking a transfer must fulfil the following requirements:

- occupy their present dwelling under a tenancy agreement, for a period of at least two years, unless the tenancy agreement provides otherwise;
- have a clear rent account for 6 months or have an agreement in place and being adhered to by the tenant to address any such arrears over an agreed period of time;
- have kept their dwelling in satisfactory condition, subject to inspection;
- have complied with the conditions of their Tenancy Agreement and
- have no record of anti-social behaviour.

Q7/1225

Councillor P. Holohan

To ask the Chief Executive how much monetary saving SDCC have saved on electricity since its switch to LED Streetlights?

REPLY:

There is no way to accurately calculate the monetary saving of installing LED Public Lighting on an ongoing basis as the savings will fluctuate in line with fluctuating energy tariffs.

We do know that LED lanterns use 50% of the energy compared to traditional SOX lanterns.

For the year 2024 we had 80% of our lanterns upgraded to LED and 20% were still traditional SOX lanterns. For that year, we spent approximately €1.8m on public lighting energy for our regional and local road network. If none of these lanterns were LED we would have spent an extra 65% (approx. €1.2m extra) on energy in 2024.

Q8/1225

Councillor P. Holohan

To ask the Chief Executive how many people are awaiting a housing placement based of extraordinary circumstances?

REPLY:

Housing transfers considered under exceptional circumstances are typically related to an urgent and immediate requirement to relocate a tenant, where the need extends beyond the standard eligibility categories (e.g., overcrowding, rightsizing, or medical grounds).

Tenants approved for a transfer on these grounds are provided with one offer of alternative accommodation as a priority given the urgent and immediate nature of the situation and subject to the availability of housing stock. Tenants will also be required to have no rent arrears; no history of anti-social behaviour and their home should be in good condition.

Q9/1225

Councillor M. Johansson

To ask the Chief Executive how many households registered as homeless following a Notice of Termination from a private landlord so far in 2025?

REPLY:

As of the end of October 2025, the Homeless Unit recorded 154 new presentations from individuals or households who had received a valid Notice of Termination from their landlord. Staff from the Homeless Unit are available to provide dedicated support to assist applicants and can be contacted at 01-4149000.

Q10/1225

Councillor R. Mannion

To ask the Chief Executive how many estates/roads are currently active in going through the taking in charge process across the County?

REPLY:

South Dublin County (SDCC) are currently actively progressing the 45no. estates listed in the attached table. The developers of these estates are actively engaged with SDCC in submitting the required quality checks and as constructed details necessary to allow the Council to take the estates into our charge and maintenance. There is a steady stream of estates completing the Taking in Charge process in recent times.

[Q10 \(ii\) Active TIC list](#)

Q11/1225

Councillor R. Mannion

To ask the Chief Executive how many parking enforcement staff does SDCC currently employ?

REPLY:

The Council does not directly employ Parking Enforcement Staff. All "on-street" and "off-street" managed parking services is under contract with an external supplier. The most recent contract was awarded to Tazbell Services Group on 1st February 2025.

Q12/1225 Councillor R. Mannion

To ask the Chief Executive to provide details regarding how much parking enforcement revenue has SDCC collected in the past 5 years - details to be broken down by year, number of fines/tickets issued and the electoral areas these were issued please

REPLY:

The Council generates parking enforcement revenue through application of the Control of Parking Byelaws 2021. This means that there are certain charges applicable for parking in certain areas of application.

These charges relate to parking ticket fees, license and permit fees and suspension of parking meter bays. Revenue is also generated through payment of Fixed Penalty Notice (fines) and payments made through the court service.

The following table outline the overall income received in the past 5 years and the number of fines issued. The information requested is not available on an electoral area basis.

Year	Valid Fines Issued	Total Income
2020	6986	€474,395.00
2021	7126	€548,727.00
2022	8823	€770,461.00
2023	10535	€959,667.00
2024	9696	€946,399.00

Q13/1225 Councillor E. Ó Broin

To ask the Chief Executive if he has carried out any work to explore the possibility of utilizing deep geothermal energy, i.e. >3KM underground, in the county?

REPLY:

The Council's energy agency Codema and TU Dublin are partners in an EU Project called the GEMINI Project. Campus locations at both

Grangegorman and Tallaght are sites where preliminary investigative bores have been drilled to approximately 1km depth. Both yielded good temperatures, the Grangegorman borehole had 38degC at 1km depth for example. In Grangegorman the GEMINI project will look to cover the cost of drilling a production borehole to approximately 3km depth which is estimated to have heat available at circa 80degC. Geological Survey Ireland GSI are also planning to undertake seismic reflection surveys for mapping the subsurface in the Dublin area to highlight the best locations for potential drilling of production wells in the future. [Geothermal Investigations](#)

Q14/1225 Councillor E. Ó Broin

To ask the Chief Executive is the review of weight restrictions on the roads of SDCC complete?

REPLY:

The countywide weight restriction review is progressing. The Traffic team requested and received suggested roads to review for weight restrictions from the Elected Members.

The first review of the suggested weight restrictions is now complete, and lists are being prepared of potential weight restriction proposals for each electoral area.

The first workshop, by electoral area, with Elected Members will take place with Lucan members in the second week of December where is intended to discuss a draft list of weight restriction proposals. This will be followed with a workshop with the Clondalkin members early in the new year. Other Electoral area workshops will follow soon thereafter.

Q15/1225 Councillor E. Ó Broin

To ask the Chief Executive if he has carried out any analysis of which heating systems have the lowest life cycle costs for tenants in new build SDCC social housing?

Q16/1225 Councillor E. Ó Broin

To ask the Chief Executive for an update on the number of households on both the social housing list and the HAP transfer list in tabular form by time on list and size of dwelling sought?

REPLY:

The tables below provide a breakdown of the number of households on the housing list and the HAP transfer list and the average time on list for allocations as at 31st October 2025:

Housing List		6,256						
North of Naas Road Only		South of the Naas Road Only		North & South Naas Road		Totals		
1 Bed	842	1 Bed	1,199	1 Bed	1,314	3,355		
2 Bed	610	2 Bed	610	2 Bed	692	1,912		
3 Bed	333	3 Bed	276	3 Bed	278	887		
4+Bed	31	4+Bed	29	4+Bed	42	102		
	1,816		2,114			2,407	6,256	

at

Hap Transfer List		4,681						
North of Naas Road Only		South of the Naas Road Only		North & South Naas Road		Totals		
1-Bed	182	1-Bed	292	1-Bed	488	962		
2-Bed	424	2-Bed	676	2-Bed	1,130	2,230		
3-Bed	300	3-Bed	363	3-Bed	739	1,402		
4+-Bed	23	4+-Bed	14	4-Bed	50	87		
	929		1,345			2,407	4,681	

Housing need	1-bed	2-bed	3-bed	4-bed
Time on list (years) for Allocations (Excl. transfers)	7.3	9.3	10.2	11.9

Q17/1225

Councillor E. Ó Broin

To ask the Chief Executive if he will permit an SDCC social housing tenant to build an extension at their own expense, to meet the needs of a growing family?

REPLY:

Tenants are not permitted to carry out any alterations/extensions to their council home without prior written permission from the Senior Executive Engineer in our Housing Maintenance Section as the proposed works may interfere with the structures of the property/adjoining properties.

Tenants requiring additional bedroom space to meet the needs of their growing family can apply for a transfer to alternative accommodation.

Eligible applicants are placed on the transfer list for certain size of dwelling in accordance with their family size. The table below shows accommodation sizes:

Single person or Couple (Certain 1-bed units may be designated for older persons only)	1-bed
Lone Parent or Couple with 1 or 2 children of the same gender regardless of age	2-bed
Lone Parent or Couple with 2 children of opposite gender Lone Parent or Couple with 3 or 4 children	3-bed
Lone Parent or Couple with 5 or more children	4-bed

Tenants seeking a transfer must fulfil the following requirements:

- hold the tenancy in their present dwelling, for a period of at least two years, unless it is a temporary tenancy;
- have a clear rent account – any transfer will take account of rent arrears but allowances may be made where an agreement is in place and being adhered to by the tenant to address any such arrears over an agreed period of time;
- have kept their dwelling in satisfactory condition, subject to inspection;
- have complied with the conditions of their Tenancy Agreement;
- have no record of anti-social behaviour.

Further details on housing transfers can be found on the council's website: [Finding a Home - SDCC](#).

Q18/1225

Councillor J. Sinnott

To ask the Chief Executive what is the criteria the Council executive use when deciding on the upgrading of footpaths in residential estates?

REPLY:

Every year SDCC carry out a Road and Footpath Repair Programme.

Locations requiring repair are identified following inspections by the road inspectors. Inspections are carried out upon receipt of repair requests from Councillors/members of the public or locations identified by inspectors in the course of their work.

When a road or footpath is inspected any and all defects will be noted. If they require repair, the inspector will either list if for consideration on a future repair programme or for direct labour crews to resolve depending on the location and scale of the work. Significant hazards will be marked as urgent and resolved as quickly as possible.

Common defects in footpaths that would necessitate repairs are;

- Weathered surface
- Trips/Traps
- Subsidence
- Excessive Crossfall
- Depression/pothole
- Sub-standard width
- Poor re-instatement

Common defects in roads that would necessitate repairs are;

- Weathered surface
- Depression/pothole
- Poor skid resistance
- Subsidence/edge deterioration
- Sub-standard width
- Poor re-instatement

Q19/1225 Councillor J. Sinnott

To ask the Chief Executive if details can be provided on the number of personal injury claims settled by South Dublin County Council in 2025?

REPLY:

Irish Public Bodies (IPB) manage all claims on the Council's behalf. Between 1st January 2025 and 30th September 2025 IPB settled 170 public liability claims at a cost of €1,998,033. Please note that property damage claims as well as personal injury claims are included in this figure as IPB do not categorise personal injury claims separately. Information in relation to Q4 2025 will not be available until early 2026.

Q20/1225 Councillor J. Sinnott

To ask the Chief Executive how many applications were made to South Dublin County Council in respect of retrospective planning permission or retention and how many were approved in 2025?

REPLY:

SDCC has received 132 planning applications for retention permission. 77 applications for retention have been granted planning permission with conditions.

These figures are up to and including 25th November, 2025. It should be noted that decisions to grant permission in 2025 may be applications received in 2024.

Q21/1225 Councillor J. Sinnott

To ask the Chief Executive what practical steps can be taken by the council to stop a developer from working on a site of development in the early hours of the morning and late in the evening i.e. outside the times agreed in the planning permission notice?

REPLY:

Where known, the Council's Planning Enforcement section can take action in relation to breaches of Planning Conditions under Part VIII of the **Planning and Development Act 2000**, should no derogation have been submitted or approved.

Q22/1225 Councillor A. Smyth

To ask the Chief Executive regarding the tree policy, is there anything mentioned about tree heights where the trees are blocking the use of solar panels on residential properties being effectively used / installed, where residents are looking to use more renewable energy?

REPLY:

The council is currently finalising the SDCC Tree Management Policy 2026-2031. The Council recognises the importance of renewable energy, both in terms of its environmental benefits and the value it provides to individual households. Trees, particularly mature specimens, also provide significant environmental, aesthetic, and ecological benefits to the wider community. A balanced and proportionate approach is essential when resolving conflicts between solar panel performance and tree presence. Where a homeowner believes that a tree is blocking or reducing the efficiency, or preventing the installation of their solar panels, the Council is proposing to carry out a site inspection to assess the situation, taking into account key factors such as proximity, orientation, and aspect.

Due to the level of variance with individual sites, it is not possible to stipulate or determine what tree heights may have an impact. Each case will be assessed on its own individual merits.

If it is clear that a Council-managed tree is having a significant impact, the Council may consider appropriate pruning measures to improve solar panel performance while retaining the tree in situ. While the Council fully supports the move toward renewable energy solutions, it must also safeguard the long-term value and contribution of trees to local amenity, biodiversity, air quality, and climate resilience. Property owners should take into account the presence, and future growth, of nearby trees when selecting a suitable location for solar panel installation.

Q23/1225 Councillor F. Timmons

To ask the Chief Executive for SDCC procedure and steps for what any resident has to do to install EV Chargers at their property?

REPLY:

A standard home charger may generally be installed within the property boundary e.g. driveway or garage. Subject to conditions and limitations, EV charging points are exempt from the requirement for planning permission under Class 29A of Part 1 of schedule 2 of the Planning Regulations 2001 (as amended).

It is not currently possible to install an EV charger for personal use within an apartment or multi-unit development with shared parking spaces without the approval of the Owner Management Committee. Similarly, it is not currently possible to install a charger for private use on public property.

However, the Irish government published its ***Private Wires Policy Statement*** on 15th July 2025, marking a significant step in reforming the Irish electricity sector.

"Private wires will be permitted to: facilitate on-street electric vehicle parking." Further details are awaited on the implementing measures and the Policy Statement indicates the potential for future public consultation on the matter. (although no timing is specified).

South Dublin County Council await the development of Local Authority guidance in the area of electric vehicle charging in shared parking spaces through private connections to houses, and will implement any approved measures that support the national target that 30% of all private vehicles are Electric Vehicles by 2030.

Q24/1225 Councillor F. Timmons

To ask the Chief Executive if there are any grants operated by SDCC providing funding towards sensory rooms?

REPLY:

The council administers the Housing (Adaptation Grants for Older People and Disabled People) Regulations 2024 on behalf of the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government (DHLGH). Grants are provided to support individuals with disabilities by ensuring necessary adaptations, repairs, or improvements such as sensory rooms are made to their private homes to better suit their needs.

Under the Housing Adaptation Grant for Disabled People, a disability is defined in the Regulations as “an enduring physical, sensory, mental health or intellectual impairment.” In line with this definition, all applications for grant aid relating to individuals diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) are assessed under this scheme, provided the proposed works are reasonably necessary to make the home more suitable for the person’s accommodation needs. Applications of this type must be supported by a multi-disciplinary assessment by suitably qualified healthcare professionals. This assessment should clearly outline who will be responsible for providing ongoing therapy services and who will supply and maintain any sensory-related equipment. Updated guidance is to be provided to local authorities on housing adaptation assistive technologies relating to the fixtures and fittings of a property which qualify within the schemes having regard to the evolving nature of such technology. Funding is available for adaptations to the physical structure or fabric of the home only. Funding is not available for the purchase of sensory equipment.

To qualify for the grant the following requirements apply:

- Grant application must be approved before the work starts on the home.
- Applicant must live in the home when the work is completed.
- Home-owners tax affairs must be in order, and they must have tax clearance from Revenue if the grant is for more than €10,000.
- Local Property Tax for the home must be in order.
- Proof of income.
- Completed doctors certificate.

An occupational therapist report is also required, a refund is available of up to €300 towards the cost of this report. If an extension is required, an applicant must engage a professional to design the

extension, secure planning permission, if required and drawings must be provided to determine the amount of grant funding available.

For further assistance on grants in private homes, the team can be contacted by emailing hgrants@sdublincoco.ie or by phoning 01 4149373. For applicants over the age of 65 years, support is also available from Local Co-ordinators of the Healthy Age Friendly Homes Programme. They can be contacted by phoning 046-9248899. These local co-ordinators support the population over 65yrs in the SDCC area and will make an appointment to come and visit an applicant in their home to advise and assist with the application form. This is a free service.

The Tenants Disabled Persons Grant funding may be considered for a range of infrastructural and safety-related adaptations necessary to create appropriate living environments for applicants with specific sensory needs. Works considered may include, modifications intended to enhance safety to internal and external doors, implementation of measures designed to regulate sensory input, such as specialised light control mechanisms to ensure a softer, less stimulating environment and therapeutic colour schemes to promote calmness and relaxation. Applicants may also be considered for a transfer to alternative accommodation with additional bedroom space that may be more suitable to their current needs.

Further details can be found on our website www.sdcc.ie.

Q25/1225

Councillor F. Timmons

To ask the Chief Executive to outline the reason for the changes to the Choice Based Lettings process?

REPLY:

As part of our ongoing commitment to improving operational efficiencies and reducing waiting times in the allocation of new social homes. We are piloting the advertisement of multiple properties in new Approved Housing Body (AHB) housing developments through Choice Based Lettings (CBL). By adopting this streamlined approach, we hope this will lead to the quicker allocation of new homes.

Applicants will be assigned their new homes in consultation with the respective AHB. This change only applies where there are multiple units in AHB developments

We will continue to advertise individual addresses for SDCC housing stock on CBL and applicants approved for social housing on medical grounds will receive a direct offer of accommodation suitable to the household's specific medical needs.

Q26/1225 Councillor F. Timmons

To ask the Chief Executive would he consider a register of planning enforcement cases that would be accessible to the public and updated as planning enforcement cases progressed?

REPLY:

The local authority is obliged to keep a register of all planning matters.

The Planning and Development Act 2024 Section 356 (7) (c) underscores the obligation to keep a register of enforcement carried out by the Local Authority.

The Planning Register is available to view at the Planning Department. This can be done in person by calling to the public counter.

The public counter for Planning is open from 9-4pm every day.

In general terms it should be noted that once an enforcement case is opened by the planning authority, the details of the case are a matter for the planning authority, and it may not be possible for the planning authority to provide regular updates to “interested” (complainants) persons. However, complainants and “interested” parties are advised of progress at each statutory stage e.g. after a Section 152 Warning Notice is issued / after a S154 Enforcement Notice is issued / when file has been referred for court proceedings.

Q27/1225 Councillor F. Timmons

To ask the Chief Executive how SDCC compares in comparison to other Dublin councils in relation to council rents charged?

REPLY:

The table below outlines a summary of how each of the four Dublin local authorities calculates differential rent.

DR SCHEME	SDCC (2025)	FINGAL CC (2013)	FINGAL CC (May 2026)	DLRCC (2025)	DLRCC (2026)	DCC (2024)* (updates April 26)	DCC (2026)

MIN RENT	€27.40, (linked to Social Welfare rate) Does not apply to Households where all members are 65 and over.	€22.00	€30.00	€22.00	€22.00	€30.00	€30.00	
MAX RENT	No Max	No Max	No Max	No Max	No Max	€257.00 - €423.00 dep on dwelling size bedsit (i.e. 1 room) €257.00 1 Bedroom (i.e. 2 rooms) €301.00 2 Bedroom (i.e. 3 rooms) €313.00 3 Bedroom (i.e. 4 rooms) €401.00 >3 Bedroom (i.e. > 4 rooms) €423.00	No Max	
% RENT ASSESSME NT	10% - of all household income combined plus €3	12% of principal earner & 12% of subsidiar	14.5% of principal earner & 14.5% of subsidiar	16% of principal earner which exceeds	16% of principal earner which exceeds	15% of principal earner, which exceeds	18% of principal earner, which exceeds	

	Additional 10% on any income in excess of the relevant social housing eligibility thresholds for their family size.	€35, Subsidiary occupiers assessed 16% capped @ €20.00 pp	€35, Subsidiary occupiers assessed 11% with no cap. @ €20.00 pp	€32 and 15% of subsidiary earner which exceeds €32. Maximum weekly rent contribution that will be assessed on the income of any individual subsidiary earner will be €21.00 and €84 for total subsidiaries per household.	€35, Subsidiary occupiers assessed 11% with no cap. @ €20.00 pp	€32 and 15% of subsidiary earner which exceeds €32. Maximum weekly rent contribution that will be assessed on the income of any individual subsidiary earner will be €21.00 and €84 for total subsidiaries per household.	€32 and 15% of subsidiary earner which exceeds €32. Maximum weekly rent contribution that will be assessed on the income of any individual subsidiary earner will be €21.00 and €84 for total subsidiaries per household.	€55 and 18% of subsidiary earner which exceeds €55. Maximum weekly rent contribution that will be assessed on the income of any individual subsidiary earner will be €40.
IS WORKING FAMILY PAYMENT ASSESSED ?	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
DEPENDENT CHILD REDUCTION	N/A	N/A	N/A	€1.00 per dependent child	€1.00 per dependent child	€1.00 per dependent child	€1.00 per dependent child	€3.00 per dependent child

Q28/1225 Councillor N. Whelan

To ask the Chief Executive to outline the ongoing efforts to prevent flooding from heavy rainfall, in areas at risk throughout our County.

REPLY:

South Dublin is facing increased flood risks due to climate change effects such as heavier rainfall and more intense storms. The county is vulnerable primarily to fluvial and pluvial flooding, and several schemes and maintenance operations are underway to mitigate these risks.

The Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) programme commenced in Ireland in 2011. One of the main aims of the programme was to assess flood risk through the identification of flood hazard areas and the associated impacts of flooding. These flood risk maps are available on the OPW's flood information website: <http://www.floodinfo.ie/map/floodmaps>

South Dublin County Council is advancing a number of schemes in 2026 aimed at preventing future flooding incidents. These projects range from major capital works to small, localised schemes targeting recurring flooding issues.

- Newcastle to Hazelhatch Surface Water Pipeline: A new €10M surface water pipeline will be installed from Newcastle to Hazelhatch, commencing in January 2026. This infrastructure is necessary to provide stormwater capacity and reduce flood risk in the area. It will support the development of residential sites in Newcastle that previously could not proceed without this pipeline, with completion expected in Q3 2026.
- River Poddle Flood Alleviation Scheme (FAS): In partnership with the OPW, SDCC began construction of the River Poddle FAS in April 2024, with completion scheduled for July 2027. The completed impoundment works in Tymon Park now offer flood protection to downstream areas during future rainfall events. More details are available at poddlefas.ie
- Whitechurch Stream Flood Alleviation Scheme: Construction commenced in May 2023, conducted by the OPW, and is due to finish in October 2027. More information can be found at whitechurchfas.ie
- Camac Flood Alleviation Scheme: Led by Dublin City Council with SDCC, the Camac FAS is in Stage 1 – Preliminary Design. Viable options are being assessed, and public consultations are planned for 2026. The preferred option will be identified and prepared for a Part 10 planning application to An Coimisiún Pleanála. Further details are available at camacfas.ie

An annual €435,000 budget supports minor capital and flood alleviation works including new pipelines and drainage improvements in multiple locations, accompanied by maintenance and upgrades. Pluvial flooding hotspots will be addressed through minor works guided by surveys. A drainage study is underway for Newcastle, Rathcoole, and Saggart areas.

In response to severe weather events, SDCC has a Severe Weather Assessment Team (SWAT), which is made up of senior staff across the council. This team monitors the weather alert systems and flood

forecast reports and implement the necessary actions due to the event.

The Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 includes an Action area titled 'Increasing Flood Resilience in South Dublin', with 13 of the 15 actions in this area in progress, for further information [**Increasing Flood Resilience In South Dublin - SDCC**](#)

The Natural Water Operations section manage surface water networks and rivers by clearing blockages, repairing infrastructure, maintaining pumping stations, and cleaning streams and screens to ensure proper function.

To help prevent flooding, several routine operations are conducted:

- Clearing of vegetation from rivers and streams
- Regular inspection and cleaning of trash screens at culvert inlets, with increased frequency upon receipt of Met Éireann weather warnings
- Cleaning of road gullies by contracted personnel as part of the annual road sweeping programme, including up to four cleanings per year for part of the network, as well as testing, cleaning, and jetting of connections when necessary
- Post-event reviews following significant rainfall to identify future flood risk areas, which inform investment priorities and revisions to maintenance plans for channels and piped networks.

H6/1225

DECLARATION OF ROADS TO BE MADE PUBLIC ROADS - FOR APPROVAL

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

[HI 6 \(a\) Airpark Square Taking in Charge Report](#)

[HI 6 \(b\) Airpark Square TIC Map](#)

[HI 6 \(c\) Airpark Square Roads Schedule](#)

It was proposed by Councillor P. Kearns, seconded by Councillor E. Murphy and **AGREED** to

"Take in Charge the roads detailed in the roads schedule and the infrastructure detailed in the Taking in Charge map within the **Airpark Square estate, Stocking lane, Rathfarnham, Dublin 16** in accordance with the provisions of Section 11 of the Roads Act, 1993 and in accordance with the provisions of Section 180 of the Planning & Development Act 2000 as amended."

H7/1225

PROPOSED DISPOSAL OF PROPERTIES/SITES - FOR APPROVAL

The following reports by the Chief Executive, which had been circulated, were presented by Mr. J. Frehill, Director of Economic Development and were **CONSIDERED**.

(a) Section 183 for Transfer of Common Areas to the OMC for Canal Bank, Clonburris

HI 7 (a)(i) Report - Canal Bank, Clonburris Owners Management Company

HI 7 (a)(ii) Map - Canal Bank, Clonburris Owners Management Company

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors E. Ó Broin, W. Carey, M. Johansson, J. Tuffy, L. O'Toole and F. Timmons with queries raised in relation to Management Fees, Taking in Charge and parking concerns.

Mr. J. Frehill, Director of Economic Development responded to the member's queries.

The report was **NOTED** and it was proposed by Councillor P. Kearns, Seconded by Councillor F. Timmons and **RESOLVED**:

“That the disposal of common areas to Canal Bank, Clonburris Owners Management Company (OMC) in respect of mixed tenure housing development of 116 homes (56 social and 60 affordable purchase) at Canal Bank, Clonburris, Dublin 22, be **ADOPTED** and **APPROVED**.”

(b) Proposed Disposal of fee simple in 48 Rathlawns, Rathcoole, Co. Dublin

HI 7 (b)(i) Report - 48 Rathlawns, Rathcoole, Co. Dublin.

HI 7 (b)(ii) Map - 48 Rathlawns

The report was **NOTED** and it was proposed by Councillor P. Kearns, seconded by Councillor W. Carey and **RESOLVED**.

“That, the disposal of fee simple in 48 Rathlawns, Rathcoole, Co. Dublin be **ADOPTED** and **APPROVED**.”

(c) Proposed Disposal of fee simple 95 Limekiln Road, Walkinstown, Dublin 12

[HI 7\(c\)\(i\) Report - 95 Limekiln Road, Walkinstown, Dublin 12](#)

[HI 7\(c\)\(ii\) Map - 95 Limekiln Road, Walkinstown, Dublin 12](#)

The report was **NOTED** and it was proposed by Councillor P. Kearns, seconded by Councillor R. McMahon and **RESOLVED**.

“That, the disposal of fee simple in 95 Limekiln Road, Walkinstown, Dublin 12 be **ADOPTED** and **APPROVED**.”

H8/1225

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT - FOR NOTING

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

[HI 8 \(a\) Chief Executive's Report - December 2025](#)

[HI 8 \(c\) Finance Report - December 2025](#)

Councillor R. McMahon requested that the Council's winning of the Local Authority of the Year Award be acknowledged by a round of applause.

The report was **NOTED**.

H9/1225

CASUAL TRADING BYELAWS – FOR APPROVAL

The following report by the Chief Executive, which had been circulated, was presented by Ms T. Walsh, Director of Climate Action and was **CONSIDERED**.

[HI 9 \(i\) Presentation of Casual Trading Byelaws](#)

[HI 9 \(ii\) Draft Casual Trading Byelaws](#)

[HI 9 \(iii\) CE Report for Causal Trading Byelaws](#)

[HI 9 \(iv\) Casual Trading Location Maps](#)

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors Y. Collins, J. Sinnott, B. Lawlor, F. Timmons, L. O'Toole, E. Ó Broin and C. Brady with queries raised in relation to varying locations, waste management, defibrillators and flexibility of the new byelaws.

Ms T. Walsh, Director Climate Action, responded to the member's queries.

The report was **NOTED**, as proposed by Councillor P. Kearns, seconded by Councillor F. Timmons:-

“It is hereby resolved that the County Council of South Dublin (hereafter referred to as ‘the Council’) in exercise of the powers conferred by Section 200, Local Government Act 2001 and Section 6 (9) of the Casual Trading Act, 1995, hereby make the Casual trading Byelaws, as amended in the foregoing report and as per the attached draft Casual Trading Byelaws.” be ADOPTED and APPROVED.”

H11/1225 2026 SERVICE DELIVERY PLAN – FOR APPROVAL

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

[H11 Annual Service Delivery Plan 2026](#)

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors M. Johansson, J. Spear, L. O’Toole, J. Tuffy, and R. McMahon with queries raised in relation to distribution of the plan to all households, and the inclusion of targets and symbols within the plan. hashtag symbol.

Mr. C. Ward, Chief Executive, and Ms. L. Maxwell, Director of Community responded to the member’s queries.

A Roll Call Vote was called for in the names of Councillors R. Mannion, M. Johansson and J. Spear, the result of which is as follows:

For: 24 (TWENTY-FOUR)

Councillor S. Barnes, C. Brady, V. Casserly, Y. Collins, P. Cosgrave, D. Donnelly, A. Edge, H. Farrell, A. Hayes, P. Holohan, P. Kearns, B. Lawlor, L. McCrave, R. McMahon, D. McManus, E. Murphy, E. Ó Broin, S. O’Hara, L. O’Toole, Baby Pereppadan, J. Sinnott, A. Smyth, F. Timmons and J. Tuffy.

Against: 1 (ONE)

Councillor W. Carey.

Abstain: 9 (NINE)

Councillor D. Adelaide, L. De Courcy, N. Fennell, M. Johansson, K. Keane, R. Mannion, G. Moore, J. Spear and N. Whelan.

As a result of the **Roll Call Vote** the 2026 Service Delivery Plan was **AGREED**.

H12/1225 NOMINATION TO THE SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY PARTNERSHIP BOARD - FOR APPROVAL

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

A vacancy exists on the South Dublin County Partnership Board. It is a matter for the Council to make nomination to fill the vacancy. This is now before the Council for consideration.

It was proposed by Councillor D. McManus and seconded by Councillor B. Lawlor and **AGREED** that Councillor C. Brady be appointed to the South Dublin County Partnership Board.

H13/1225 TENANT PARTICIPATION STRATEGY – FOR NOTING

The following report by the Chief Executive, which had been circulated, was presented by Ms E. Leech, Director of Housing and was **CONSIDERED**

[HI 13 Draft Tenant Participation Strategy](#)
[HI 13 Tenant Participation Strategy presentation](#)

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillor Y. Collins, D. Adelaide, L. O'Toole, E. Ó Broin and P. Kearns with queries raised in relation to Associated Housing Bodies and tenant training.

Ms E. Leech, Director of Housing, responded to the member's queries.

The report was **NOTED**.

H14/1225 COMMUNITY & SPORTS DEVELOPMENT GRANTS - FOR NOTING

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

The online rolling application process provides community and voluntary groups who are responding to locally identified needs

within their communities with the opportunity to apply for assistance from the Council under the following categories:

- Community Development Grants
- Community Events Funding
- Sport Development Grants

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

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

Following the assessment process and having regard to the available budget **2** grants totalling **€2,570.00** were approved for **2** local groups summarised as follows:

Category	No:	Amount
Community Development Grants	1	€770.00
Community Events Funding	1	€1,800.00
Total	2	€2,570.00

The final list of approved grants together with their respective approved grant amounts is as follows:

Name of Group	Funding Category Applied For	Sub-Category of Grant	Amount
Irish Red Cross Lucan Branch	Community Events Funding	Christmas Celebration	€1,800.00
Firhouse Sister Shed	Community Development Grant	Running Costs	€770.00
Total			€2,570.00

The report was **NOTED**.

H15/1225 CAPITAL PROGRAMME UPDATE & THREE YEAR CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2026 – 2028 - FOR APPROVAL

Mr. C. Ward, Chief Executive addressed the Members requesting the reports be deferred to the January 2026 Council meeting which was **CONSIDERED**.

It was proposed by Councillor P. Kearns, seconded by Councillor E. Murphy and **AGREED**.

“That the Three-Year Capital Programme 2026–2028 be considered at the January 2026 Council Meeting.”

C1/1225 REPLIES, ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS & CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence

- (a) Reply from An Taisce
- (b) Correspondence received from Kildare County Council
- (c) Correspondence received from Tipperary County Council
- (d) Correspondence received from Wexford County Council
- (e) Correspondence received from Donegal County Council
- (f) Correspondence received from Clare County Council
- (g) Correspondence received from Kerry County Council
- (h) Correspondence received from Kerry County Council
- (i) Correspondence received from Kerry County Council
- (j) Correspondence received from Leitrim County Council
- (k) Correspondence received from Wexford County Council
- (l) Correspondence received from Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council

The correspondence was **NOTED**.

M1/1225 Mayor's Business

It was proposed by Councillor P. Kearns, seconded by Councillor F. Timmons

That this council requests that SDCC shows its support for the 'Dispose with Dignity' campaign led by PHS washrooms Ireland with the support of the Irish Cancer Society by installing the appropriate hygiene disposal bins in all men's bathrooms in our public buildings.

REPORT:

SDCC will support the dispose with dignity campaign by installing the appropriate hygiene disposal bins in men's bathrooms in our public buildings, where it is practical to do so.

The Motion was **AGREED.**

M2/1225

Defibrillators in Age Friendly Developments.

It was proposed by Councillor N. Whelan, seconded by F. Timmons and **MOVED WITHOUT DEBATE.**

This Council agrees that all new age friendly developments should have a defibrillator installed upon completion, and training made available to its residents.

REPORT:

Defibrillators have been installed by SDCC in County Hall, Tallaght in the Clondalkin Civic Offices and at Public Libraries. Further defibrillators are provided throughout the County by a wide variety of groups and organisations including community groups, sports clubs, shopping centres, individual pharmacies and private commercial companies. The installation, upkeep and maintenance of defibrillators is the responsibility of the relevant committee, management or company.

There are no plans to install defibrillators at our age friendly housing developments, instead our strategic focus is on providing comprehensive and targeted safety and security supports, which are paramount to enabling older residents to maintain independent living within the County. Our approach is built upon a foundation of personalised assessment and effective partnership delivery across key areas:

1. Personalised needs assessment and co-ordination

Our Local Healthy Age Friendly Homes Co-ordinators conduct personalised home visits to residents. These assessments are crucial for accurately identifying the essential safety and security supports required to sustain long-term independence in the home environment.

2. Targeted alarm and safety provision

Age friendly co-ordinators manage the referral process for critical personal and home safety alarms through established, effective routes. Pendant and personal safety alarm referrals are facilitated via two primary mechanisms:

- Trustus for the provision of the state-funded Pobal pendant alarms
- Referrals for advanced GPS-tracked personal alarms provided by private companies (note: these specific advanced alarms are not state-funded)

3. Digital inclusion and assistive technology development

Age Friendly co-ordinators provide dedicated support to encourage residents to access and effectively utilise "Acorn tablets" through their local library. This initiative actively promotes digital literacy and inclusion among older residents. The Community Department is scheduled to launch a key pilot project in Q1 2026. This initiative will provide basic assistive technology equipment to a cohort of older residents and track its effectiveness over a twelve-month period to inform future policy and wider roll-out.

The council is committed to supporting a robust system of in-home safety, security and technology measures to ensure the continued well-being, dignity and independence of all members within our Age-Friendly community.

M3/1225

Radon Monitors

It was proposed by Councillor J. Tuffy, seconded by Councillor L. de Courcy.

That the Council contacts the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), which has worked with certain local authorities to put in place a library loan system for digital radon monitors, to see if such a project could work for South Dublin County Council.

REPORT:

The Council has contacted the EPA and Wexford County Council regarding this digital radon monitors scheme. The scheme will be examined with a view to SDCC rolling it out in conjunction with the library services.

The EPA's current advice is as "that a digital monitor can be used to give an indication of radon levels in your home. However, a reading from a digital monitor is NOT a replacement for a three-month test". Further information on radon can be found on the EPA website here [Radon | Environmental Protection Agency](https://www.epa.ie/radon/).

A discussion arose with contributions from Councillors J. Tuffy, L. de Courcy and W. Carey.

Ms T. Walsh, Director Climate Action, responded to the members.

The motion was **AGREED**

M4/1225

Joint Ambulance Service Delivery Task and Finish Group,

The motion **FELL** as Councillor T. Gilligan, was not present at the meeting.

That this Council asks that the Ministers of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and Health, Dublin City Council Chief Executive, Dublin Fire Brigade Chief Fire Officer ensures the full implementation of the recommendations of the HSE/Dublin City Council Joint Ambulance Service Delivery Task and Finish Group, and a letter be issued in this regard.

M5/1225

Christmas Crib

It was proposed by Councillor R. McMahon, seconded by Councillor L De Courcy

To celebrate the true meaning of Christmas, that South Dublin erect a large crib each year for the Christmas season, either in County Hall public area or outside in a suitable place, such as Parthalán Place.

REPORT:

If this motion is agreed the Council will identify a suitable location and arrange for a crib of an appropriate size to be erected for the 2026 Christmas season.

An Amendment to the Motion was proposed by Councillor E. Murphy, and seconded by Councillor V. Casserly, as follows:

To celebrate ~~the true meaning of~~ Christmas, that South Dublin erect a large crib each year for the Christmas season, either in County Hall public area or outside in a suitable place, such as Parthalán Place.

A second Amendment to the Motion was proposed by Councillor D. McManus and seconded by Councillor B. Lawlor, as follows:

To celebrate the true meaning of Christmas, that South Dublin erect a large crib each year for the Christmas season, either in County Hall public area or outside in a suitable place, such as Parthalán Place, **and that SDCC extend an invitation to the Irish Farmers Association to replicate the successful live animal crib in place with Dublin City Council.**

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors R. Mc Mahon, E. Murphy, J. Sinnott, P. Holohan, A. Edge, K. Keane, D. McManus, W. Carey, Y. Collins, L. O'Toole, L. de Courcy, P. Cosgrave, S. Barnes, N. Whelan, F. Timmons, J. Spear, L. McCrave, R. Mannion and P. Kearns.

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

Following on from the discussion Councillor D. McManus requested to WITHDRAW his Amendment to the Motion, the Members **AGREED**.

A **Roll Call Vote**, on the Amendment to the Motion, was called for in the names of Councillors P. Kearns, K. Keane and J. Spear the result of which is as follows:

FOR 16 (SIXTEEN)

Councillors D. Adelaide, V. Casserly, A. Edge, N. Fennell, A. Hayes, M. Johansson, K. Keane, P. Kearns, R. Mannion, E. Murphy, E. Ó Broin, J. Sinnott, A. Smyth, J. Spear, F. Timmons and N. Whelan.

AGAINST 16 (SIXTEEN)

Councillors S. Barnes, C. Brady, Y. Collins, P. Cosgrave, L. de Courcy, D. Donnelly, H. Farrell, P. Holohan, B. Lawlor, L. McCrave, R. McMahon, D. McManus, G. Moore, S. O'Hara, L. O'Toole, and Baby Pereppadan

ABSTAIN 2 (TWO)

Councillors W. Carey and J. Tuffy

In accordance with the provisions of Section 58 of Standing Orders, where there is an equality of votes, the Mayor, Councillor P. Kearns cast a second vote in favour of the amendment.

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

M6/1225

Door Lock Scheme

It was proposed by Councillor N. Fennell and seconded by Councillor N. Whelan.

That this council acknowledge the previous home security 'Door Lock Scheme' by South Dublin County Council, and in doing so, call for its reintroduction, toward assisting efforts to combat burglaries and making communities safe.

REPORT:

South Dublin County Council acknowledges the significant benefits of the Home Security Scheme in supporting safer communities, particularly for older residents living independently. The scheme encountered operational difficulties last year due to staffing constraints within the contracted service provider, which affected its delivery.

South Dublin County Council is currently engaging with South Dublin Partnership to assess options for reinstating the scheme and ensuring its sustainable operation going forward.

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors N. Fennell, Y. Collins, and E. Murphy with queries raised in relation to the timeframe and costs of the scheme.

Ms. L. Maxwell, Director of Community responded to the member's queries.

The motion was **AGREED**.

M7/1225

Adaptation Grants for Older People and Disabled People

It was proposed by Councillor R. Mannion, seconded by Councillor F. Timmons.

That this Council extend the types of works eligible under the Housing (Adaptation Grants for Older People and Disabled People) Regulations 2024 to better meet the needs of individuals with cognitive, sensory, mental health or intellectual impairment such as provision of sensory/calm spaces, lighting changes, sound proofing etc.

REPORT:

Under the Housing (Adaptation Grants for Older People and Disabled People) Regulations 2024, grants are provided to support individuals with disabilities by ensuring necessary adaptations, repairs, or improvements are made to their private homes to better suit their needs.

The council administers the Housing Adaptation Grants on behalf of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH). Further to a review of the Regulations, the grants available were reviewed, enhanced and extended and new Regulations came into effect on 1st December 2024. The new Regulations increased grant limits, income thresholds, income disregards and the amount awarded when an applicant qualifies in full.

Under the Housing Adaptation Grant for Disabled People, a disability is defined in the Regulations as “an enduring physical, sensory, mental health or intellectual impairment.” In line with this definition, all applications for grant aid relating to individuals diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) are assessed under this scheme, provided the proposed works are reasonably necessary to make the home more suitable for the person’s accommodation needs. Funding is available for adaptations to the physical structure or fabric of the home only. Applications of this type must be supported by a multi-disciplinary assessment by suitably qualified healthcare professionals. This assessment should clearly outline who will be responsible for providing ongoing therapy services and who will supply and maintain any sensory-related equipment. Funding is not available for the purchase of sensory equipment. Updated guidance is to be provided to local authorities on housing adaptation assistive technologies relating to the fixtures and fittings of a property which qualify within the schemes having regard to the evolving nature of such technology.

To qualify for the grant the following requirements apply:

- Grant application must be approved before the work starts on the home
- Applicant must live in the home when the work is completed
- Home-owners/Tenants tax affairs must be in order, and they must have tax clearance from Revenue if the grant is for more than €10,000
- Local Property Tax for the home must be in order
- Proof of income
- Completed doctors certificate

An occupational therapist report is also required, a refund is available of up to €300 towards the cost of this report. Funding under the grant is not restricted to a bedroom or bathroom and is available for a sensory room. If an extension is required, an applicant must engage a professional to design the extension, secure planning permission if

required, and drawings must be provided to determine the amount of grant funding available.

The DHLGH has confirmed that there are no plans at this time to review the grants scheme.

For further assistance, the Private Housing Grants team can be contacted by emailing hgrants@sdublincoco.ie or by phoning 01 4149373. For applicants over the age of 65 years, support is also available from Local Co-ordinators of the Healthy Age Friendly Homes Programme. They can be contacted by phoning 046-9248899. These local co-ordinators support the population over 65yrs in the South Dublin County Council area and will make an appointment to come and visit an applicant in their home to advise and assist with the application form. This is a free service.

The Tenants Disabled Persons Grant funding may be considered for a range of infrastructural and safety-related adaptations necessary to create appropriate living environments for applicants with specific sensory needs. Works considered may include, modifications intended to enhance safety to internal and external doors, implementation of measures designed to regulate sensory input, such as specialised light control mechanisms to ensure a softer, less stimulating environment and therapeutic colour schemes to promote calmness and relaxation. Applicants may also be considered for a transfer to alternative accommodation with additional bedroom space that may be more suitable to their current needs.

Further details on the Tenants Disabled Person's Grant Scheme can be found on our website www.sdcc.ie.

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors R. Mannion, E. Murphy, N. Whelan, F. Timmons, Y. Collins, and V. Casserly, queries were raised in relation to Occupational Therapist costs.

Ms. L. Maxwell, Director of Community responded to the member's queries.

The motion was **AGREED**.

M8/1225

Community Centres

It was proposed by Councillor L. de Courcy and seconded by Councillor J. Sinnott.

That this Council agrees publicly funded and/or supported community centres within South Dublin allow elected representatives to hold public meetings when they wish to do so, subject to availability.

REPORT:

Council owned / supported community centres are operated by independent management committees that are made up of local volunteer residents and often include representatives from statutory and support agencies, including the Council. Each management committee is established as a company limited by guarantee and is responsible for managing the centre in accordance with the terms of the management licence.

Decisions regarding room bookings, including the hosting of public meetings, are the responsibility of the management committee. Such policies are determined locally to best reflect community needs and the availability of space and must be fair and consistently applied to all users.

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors L. de Courcy, D. Adelaide, V. Casserly, P. Holohan, J. Sinnott, L. O'Toole, J. Spear, E. Murphy, M. Johansson, H. Farrell, R. McMahon, W. Carey, F. Timmons, J. Tuffy, C. Brady and P. Kearns.

Ms, L. Maxwell, Director of Community, responded to the members proposing to bring the matter to the Social, Community and Equality SPC.

The Members **AGREED**

M9/1225

Metrolink

It was proposed by Councillor Y. Collins, seconded by Councillor P. Kearns.

That this Council writes to the Minister for Transport to request that an independent feasibility study into continuing MetroLink from the city to Southwest Dublin be commissioned as soon as possible pursuant to the commitment given in the Programme for Government.

REPORT:

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

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors Y. Collins, J. Sinnott, J. Spear, L. O'Toole, R. Mannion, R. McMahon, F. Timmons and P. Kearns

Mr. E. Burke, Director of Planning and Transportation, responded to the members.

The motion was **AGREED**.

M10/1225 Road Openings

It was proposed by Councillor C. Brady, seconded by Councillor B. Lawlor.

This council calls on the Chief Executive to make information on current and upcoming road openings in South Dublin publicly available in a clear and easily accessible format for residents.

REPORT:

The Road Management Office (RMO) administer the two road network management tools detailed below on behalf of all Local Authorities:

Pavement/Road Asset Management: The MapRoad Pavement Management System (PMS) — with desktop, web, and mobile components — is used to record and manage the condition, extent, and history of the road network.

Roadworks/Road Licensing: The MapRoad Roadworks Licensing System (MRL) is used for managing applications/licences for roadworks, particularly excavations or other work by utilities or contractors.

South Dublin County Council have contacted the Road Management Office in relation to public access to real-time information on roadworks on the public road network.

The RMO have indicated that the Department of Transport has tasked the RMO to develop a communication portal with real time information on Transport Infrastructure Ireland and Local Authority Roadworks on the road network. The RMO have said that they will examine the feasibility of further developing the proposed Portal system to publicise all roadworks on the network. This means to add information to the planned communication portal on third party utility works and other contractors carrying out work on public roads.

The development of any portal will take some time. The RMO said they will be tackling this item over the course of 2026. SDCC will provide updates on any developments as they become available.

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors C. Brady, L. O'Toole and Councillor Y. Collins.

Mr. E. Burke, Director of Planning and Transportation responded to the members.

The motion was **AGREED**.

M11/1225 Pedestrian Priority Policy

It was proposed by Councillor M. Johansson, seconded by Councillor J. Spear.

That the Chief Executive implement a pedestrian priority policy at traffic lights across the county.

REPORT:

South Dublin County Council have a robust procedure in place for the management of the priority for pedestrians at traffic lights. Here is a list of a number of technologies and best practice procedures that South Dublin County Council have in place to manage pedestrian movements efficiently.

Stand Alone Pedestrian Lights:

Demand call times for pedestrian phase. Minimum call time six seconds where no traffic is detected. Max call time of 36 seconds if heavy traffic detected.

A practical description of this is: A person presses the push button at a pedestrian crossing. If no traffic detected, the pedestrian gets a green light in 6 seconds. If heavy traffic detected, then the pedestrian has to wait a maximum of 36 seconds to get a green light.

Pedestrian green light time is based on a person crossing the junction at a speed of 1.2m per second. If junction width is 6 metres, then the green time given is $6 \times 1.2 = 7.2$ seconds of green time to cross. As a buffer of safety, an amber time is built into the pedestrian cycle, before traffic gets a green light to move.

Pedestrian Crossings at Vehicular Junctions:

In this situation, there is the interaction of pedestrians and vehicles on multiple arms of the junction competing for green time. The aim is to give the pedestrian as much priority as possible while ensuring the vehicle tail backs do not get excessively long. To ensure that

maximum efficiency is achieved, traffic radars are installed on each arm. When traffic is clear on that arm, the green on that arm is shut down. This happens on each arm, which speeds the response time for the pedestrian to get a green light to cross when a push button is pressed. When all arms are constantly full of traffic (at peak times on very busy junctions) a maximum wait time of 120 seconds is used for pedestrians. This is the industry best practice approach.

New Technologies being employed in South Dublin:

At school warden crossings, SDCC has introduced the capability to call an early pedestrian green at school drop off and school home times. The warden can touch the press button with an electronic tag that calls an earlier green even if traffic is present. This shortens the call time from the maximum 36 seconds mentioned above to an immediate pedestrian green call. This system has been rolled out at 8 busy schools, and the technology will be introduced to other schools where it would be of benefit.

Pedestrian Detection Radars:

It is possible to detect the number of pedestrians wanting to cross at a pedestrian crossing, using smart pedestrian radars. These radars are capable of detecting high volumes of pedestrians and can request the pedestrian green time to be increased to allow all pedestrians to cross safely. There are potential benefits with this technology at very busy footfall junctions. The Council intends to do a pilot installation of this technology, to assess its effectiveness, and to carry out a cost benefit analysis on the technology, before deciding to implement it more widely in the County.

Regular Maintenance Inspections:

It is important that the equipment mentioned is maintained in good working order. As part of our traffic signal maintenance contract, our contractor has a fault alert system that detects the vast majority of infrastructure faults and reports it on their fault dashboard. This ensures early detection and fixing of faults on our traffic control equipment. In addition, our contractor, does 2 monthly interim inspections of pedestrian crossing equipment, and carries out a more in depth annual inspection on all pedestrian light apparatus.

Prepare a Pedestrian Priority Policy:

It is intended to get a pedestrian priority management at traffic lights policy agreed at the Planning and Transport SPC and publish the policy on our website as "best practice" for this topic.

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors M. Johansson, W. Carey and J. Spear.

Mr. E. Burke, Director of Planning and Transportation responded to the members.

The motion was **AGREED**.

The meeting ended at 19.00