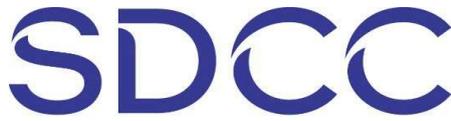


**COMHAIRLE CONTAE ÁTHA CLIATH THEAS
SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL**



Comhairle Contae South Dublin
Átha Cliath Theas County Council



**Meeting of Rathfarnham/Temploeque/
Firhouse/Bohernabreena
Area Committee**

Tuesday, 10th February 2026

HEADED ITEM NO. 11

**Chief Executive's Report on the Severe Weather Event - Storm
Chandra**

Overview

On Monday 26/01/26, Met Eireann issued a yellow warning for Storm Chandra, to take effect in the Dublin region from 5am to 11pm on Tuesday 27/01/06. The warning advised of strong winds and gusts. In light of the eastern region experiencing weekly rainfall in excess of 400% of the average norm, Met Eireann issued a river flood advisory for eastern counties including the Dublin Region.

Following Storm Chandra, weather in the Dublin area remained wet with additional weather warnings

- Yellow rainfall warning for eastern counties, including Dublin, for Thursday 29/01/26 with the risk of heavy rainfall resulting in local and river flooding.
- Yellow rainfall warning for eastern counties, including Dublin, from 6am to 9pm on Tuesday 03/02/26 with the risk of heavy rainfall resulting in local and river flooding
- Orange rainfall warning for Dublin and Wicklow, from midday Thursday 05/02/26 to midday Friday 06/02/26, with the risk of heavy rain on saturated ground and high tides, resulting in local and river flowing.

Due to ongoing persistent rain leading up to and following Storm Chandra, the Eastern Region, including Dublin, remained under a flood advisory until Saturday

07/02/26. At its peak, the weekly average rainfall in the Dublin area was in excess 500% of the average norm.

The following report outlines SDCC response to Storm Chandra, and the subsequent weather and saturated ground conditions which followed.

SDCC Response Structure

SDCC has a Major Emergency Plan, which includes a Severe Weather Plan and a Flood Emergency Plan. In the event of severe weather or flooding event, SDCC activates its Severe Weather Assessment Team (SWAT), which is made up of senior staff from across the council who manage the situation and monitor the weather alert systems and flood forecast reporting in place and implement the response. The SWAT team engages with the **National Emergency Coordination Group (NECG)**

The NECG is Ireland's central government mechanism for coordinating national-level responses to major emergencies such as severe weather, flooding, etc. It provides a platform for multi-agency coordination so that government departments, local authorities, emergency services, Met Eireann, and other national agencies, such as TII, Uisce Eireann, etc, can jointly manage the crisis.

The NECG may activate sub groups to address or manage specific issues, for example, in the case of Storm Chandra a sub group was established for the Liffey Catchment, and a sub group was established for the Humanitarian Assistance.

Severe Weather Incident and Response

In the early hours of Tuesday 27/01/26, the impact of the rainfall onto highly saturated ground resulted in flooding, predominately due to rivers overtopping their banks. Calls to report flood related incidents began at approximately 01.30 on the morning of the 27/01/26. These incidents were picked up by the On Call Staff - the severity and scale of the incidents became apparent, and crews responded throughout the night.

The Severe Weather Assessment Team (SWAT) was mobilised, to review the current situation and establish the action to be taken to address the flooding that occurred and the actions to mitigate against further flooding.

SDCC implemented the 'Severe Weather Incident Tracker' to expediate the response to reported incidents during the day and facilitate communication between the departments involved in the response – namely Roads Maintenance, Public Realm, and Natural Water.

SDCC crews worked to alleviate remaining flood water. As flood waters receded throughout the day crews began the clean-up operation.

With ongoing rainfall warnings and the flood risk still in place, crews ensured all river screens were clear of any debris transported by the flood water. Sandbags were distributed to residents in the areas worst affected.

It was announced that SDCC areas would be eligible for the Department of Social Protection Humanitarian Assistance Scheme and the DETE Flooding Scheme for small businesses. SDCC promoted the schemes and assistance residents in applying to the scheme, where possible.

SDCC remained on high alert until Friday 06/01/26, with ongoing rainfall warnings and risk of flooding.

During this time SDCC attended the daily National Emergency Coordination Group/Met Eireann Technical update meetings, the daily Sub Group for the Liffey Catchment and the daily Sub Group for Humanitarian Assistance, including each day over the public holiday weekend.

The SDCC SWAT met at least once per day from the 27/01/26 to the 06/02/26. Works and continuous monitoring continued over the public holiday weekend. The SWAT communicated regularly via whatsapp, providing clear updates throughout the day and night.

During this time:

- Crews responded to all calls and reported incidents. Out of hours calls were monitored.
- Trees were reported down in a number of locations and crews worked to remove these, where it was safe to do so, and where there was an impact on flows.
- Clean up operations were ongoing in the affected areas. SDCC crews took away debris from residents affected.
- SDCC worked with Contractors and ESB to assist in returning power to affected houses, where permitted by homeowners.
- Crews continuously checked and cleaned river screens to ensure no blockages.
- Sandbags were distributed, based on assessment of high risk, and in response to requests from the public. Pallets of sandbags were on standby, on trucks in depots near areas deemed at risk, ready to respond.
- Jetters worked to clear drains and gullies impacted by flooding.
- River levels were monitored closely, both via available telemetry and in person.
- SDCC engaged with the Contractor on the OPW / SDCC flood alleviation schemes.
- SDCC attended the NEEG Sub Group for Liffey Catchment to discuss the situation at Pollaphuca Reservoir and the required increases in discharged flows, due to rising levels.
- Due to the engagement with the Sub Group for the Liffey Catchment, the River Liffey at Lucan was checked frequently.
- Parks were closed on 05/02/26 due to an increased risk of flooding with an orange rainfall warning in place.
- There was active cooperation between SDCC, DLRCC and DCC, with communication both during and outside work hours.

- In particular, SDCC and DLRCC coordinated in relation to mitigating further flooding in the Nutgrove area.
- SDCC liaised with the Red Cross.
- SDCC engaged with the Civil Defence regarding potential need to provide support to SDCC or possibly to stand up Rest Centres.
- SDCC responded to media queries and attended interviews with broadcasters. Reporters spent time with crews on site to see the ongoing mitigation works.

Areas Impacted

SDCC Out of Hours Service received 56 calls regarding Storm Chandra, between 01:30 and 09:00 on 27/01/26.

52 of these calls related to flooding issues in the following areas, listed in the table below. The remaining 4 calls were regarding weather-related issues with social housing.

Area	Locations
Rathfarnham	Grange Park Marion Road Dodder Park Road Woodside / Woodside Drive Woodview Cottages Stocking Wood Copse, Stocking Ave Stocking Well Wood Perrystown Road Whitechurch Road / Whitechurch Pines Longwood Park Knocklyon Road Dunamore Park
Knocklyon	Glenvara Park Coolamber Park
Templeogue	Templeville Road
Dublin 24	Glenasmole
Lucan	Beech Grove
Clondalkin	Upper Nangor Road
Outside of SDCC Area	Kimmage

The critical incidents comprised:

- The Whitechurch River overtopped its banks overnight and resulted in flooding on Whitechurch Road, Grange Park and some surrounding roads. An initial estimate of approximately 20 houses were flooded.
- Nutgrove Avenue had significant flooding due to the river (little Dargle) in Loreto Park bursting its banks. A combined response was carried out from SDCC and Dun Laoghaire Rathdown (DLR) County Council.
- Dodder River and Dargle River both burst their banks where the two rivers meet beside Ely's Arch. Woodside estate had significant flows of water

through it. DLR, DCC & SDCC crews attended as it is at boundary of three authorities.

- Killinarden had significant flooding due to runoff from the mountain side, one house was flooded
- Manholes surcharged in Coolamber Pk, no houses flooded.
- Ballyboden Road was flooded from overtopping river.
- Flooding at Dodderbrook and Stocking Well estate. For SDCC social housing, 5 properties in Stocking Well Wood were flooded, and tenants were advised to vacate the properties by the Approved Housing Body.
- Reports received of leaks in approx. 35 council homes.
- Temporary Road Closures were required at Grange Park Road, Rathfarnham and at Dodder Road (Woodside Junction).
- A road closure was put in place on Cruagh Road due to structural collapse of a section of retaining wall. Currently estimated to require a 6-8 week closure, pending further investigation.
- Other minor flooding incidents throughout the county.

Summary of SDCC meetings

Briefings / Coordination Meetings	Number held / Attended
SDCC SWAT Team Coordination Meetings	9 Official Meetings
National Emergency Coordination Briefings / Met Eireann Briefings	14 Meetings (from 26 th Jan to 9 th Feb, excluding 8 th Feb)
NECG Sub Group for Liffey Catchment	9 Meetings (from 31 st Jan to 9 th Feb, excluding 8 th Feb)
NECG Sub Group for Humanitarian Assistance	9 Meetings (from 29 th Jan to 6 th Feb)

Incidents Reported

SDCC received approximately 337 calls relating to Storm Chandra and the impacts. The following table summarises the number of calls received, related to flooding, blocked gullies/drains, and pre-emptive sandbag requests, weather related issues with social housing, and other issues such as trees down.

	Out of Hours 00:00 to 09:00	Customer Care 09:00 to 17:00	Out of Hours 17:00 to 00:00	TOTAL
27/01/26	56	79	3	138
Flooding	52	44	2	98

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Social Housing (severe weather related)	4	35	1	40
28/01/26	0	26	3	29
Flooding	0	11	3 (all were requests for sandbags)	14
Social Housing (severe weather related)	0	14	0	14
Other	0	1	0	1
29/01/26	0	20	10	30
Flooding	0	17 (8 were requests for sandbags)	7 (3 were requests for sandbags)	24
Social Housing (severe weather related)	0	3	3	6
30/01/26	1	42	0	43
Flooding	0	40 (29 were requests for sandbags)	0	40
Social Housing (severe weather related)	1	2	0	3
Other	0	0	0	0
31/01/26	6	2	4	12
Flooding	4 (2 were requests for sandbags)	1 (1 request for sandbags)	1	6
Social Housing (severe weather related)	2	0	1	3
Other	0	1	2	3
01/02/26	0	0	4	4
Flooding	0	0	2 (1 request for sandbags)	2
Social Housing (severe weather related)	0	0	2	2
Other	0	0	0	
02/02/26	0	9	4	13
Flooding	0	7 (3 were requests for sandbags)	2 (1 request for sandbags)	9
Social Housing (severe weather related)	0	0	2	2
Other	0	2	0	2
03/02/26	0	10	1	11
Flooding	0	6 (3 were requests for sandbags)		6
Social Housing (severe weather related)	0	3		3
Other	0	1	1	1
04/02/26	0	6	1	7
Flooding	0	5 (2 were requests for sandbags)	0	5

Social Housing (severe weather related)	0	1	1	2
Other	0	0	0	0
05/02/26	1	34	4	39
Flooding	1 (1 request for sandbags)	32 (11 were requests for sandbags)	2	35
Social Housing (severe weather related)	0	0	2	2
Other	0	2	0	2
06/02/26	0	11		11
Flooding	0	11		11
Social Housing (severe weather related)	0	0		0
Other	0	0		0

Sandbags Distributed

SDCC distributed 2800 to 3000 sandbags to residents in South Dublin. The OPW put in place approximately 850 sandbags at the Whitechurch stream, where flood alleviation scheme works are under construction.

Location	Quantity
Grange Park, Rathfarnham	462
Woodside, Rathfarnham	264
Dodder Park Road, Rathfarnham	132
Dodderbrook	132
Stocking Well, Woodtown	66
Stocking Wood Copse, Woodtown	132
Killinarden	33
Abbots Grove	33
Woodview Cottages	264
Nutgrove Avenue	66
Willbrook Grove, Rathfarnham	66
Miscellaneous (one off addresses)	275
Out of Hours Distribution of Sandbags	950 - 1000
Total:	2875 to 2925

Humanitarian Assistance Schemes

SDCC Staff attended 9 Humanitarian Subgroup meetings from Thursday 29th Jan 2026 up and including Fri 6th Feb 2026. Liaised directly with the LGMA, Dept of Social Protection in relation to the Emergency Response Payment for households and the Red Cross who administer the Emergency Humanitarian Flooding Scheme on behalf of the Dept of Enterprise, Tourism and Employment.

Online forms were set up by SDCC so that residents and businesses affected by the flooding could register their contact details for the Humanitarian Assistance payment and supports available to them. All details submitted were monitored and forwarded on for follow up by DSP and DETE.

38 residential premises in SDCC registered their contact details with SDCC

SDCC Communications / Social Media Statistics

Social media engagement was utilised to communicate with residents of South Dublin.

	Posts	Views	Reach	Likes/Reactions/ Shares	Comments
Instagram	64 Posts	139,940	75,979	753	36
Twitter	70 Posts	23,880	2577	97	
Facebook	67 Posts	767,965	529,399	1839	367

Photos Images



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Summary

Storm Chandra resulted in flooding in areas within SDCC Administrative area. SDCC remained on alert and responsive for a prolonged period from 27th Jan to 6th Feb 2026.

Natural Water are investigating the flooding that occurred and the Climate Action Team will be working with our colleagues there to look at our need for further adaptation measures and review our response to flood events.

Based on analysis by Maynooth University and Met Eireann, reported in the Irish Times, which stated that climate change made this flood event three times more likely to occur. Rather than this 7 day rainfall happening every 150years, its now expected to happen once every 60 years.

SDCC and the OPW have ongoing flood alleviation schemes (FAS), with the Whitechurch Stream FAS and the River Poddle FAS currently under construction. The River Camac FAS is at preliminary design stage.

During this storm event, we have seen the positive impact of the River Poddle Flood Alleviation Scheme already. At this flow level, flooding in Kimmage and Harold's Cross would have been expected, and none occurred. In particular, the flood attenuation area in Tymon Park mitigated the impacts downstream, resulting in much less flow volume and materials being carried into the DCC area.

The Consultant on the Whitechurch FAS will undertake an assessment of this flood event and report back findings to SDCC.

An overall review of SDCC's flood risk management and emergency response will be undertaken in the next month, to identify improvements to be implemented by SDCC.