

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

Minutes of South Dublin County Council March 2026 County Council  
Meeting held on Monday 9 March 2026

**PRESENT**

|               |                   |
|---------------|-------------------|
| Barnes, S.    | Mannion, R.       |
| Brady, C.     | McCrave, L.       |
| Carey, W.     | McDonald, T.      |
| 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.        |
| Edge, A.      | O'Toole, L.       |
| Farrell, H.   | Pereppadan Baby   |
| Fennell, N.   | Pereppadan Britto |
| Gilligan, T.  | Richardson, D.    |
| Hayes, A.     | Sinnott, J.       |
| Holohan, P.   | Smyth, A.         |
| Johansson, M. | Spear, J.         |
| Keane, K.     | Timmons, F.       |
| Kearns, P.    | Tuffy, J.         |
| Lawlor, B.    | Whelan, N.        |

**OFFICIALS PRESENT**

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| Chief Executive          | C. Ward   |
| Directors                | J. Frehill, E. Burke, T. Walsh, E.<br>Leech, R. FitzGerald, T. Kavanagh |
| County Architect         | C. Harte  |
| Senior Planner           | H. Craigie  |
| Senior Executive Officer | B. Shannon  |
| Internal Auditor         | A. McNally  |
| Staff Officer            | P. Mens   |
| Assistant Staff Officers | A. Holohan, R. Murray   |

The Mayor, Councillor P. Kearns, presided

Apologies were received from Councillor L. Dunne and Ms. L. Maxwell,  
Director of Community

## **WEBCASTING NOTICE**

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

The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Trevor Gilligan, 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.

### **H1/0326 CONFIRMATION AND REAFFIRMATION OF MINUTES - FOR APPROVAL**

Minutes of the January Council Meeting held on 9 February 2026, 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**.

[Minutes for the February 2026 Council Meeting](#)

**H2/0326 FILLING OF CASUAL VACANCY ON SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL IN ACCORDANCE WITH S.19 OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 FOLLOWING THE RESIGNATION OF COUNCILLOR J. SHEEHY - FOR APPROVAL**

**The following reports by the Chief Executive, which had been circulated were CONSIDERED.**

HI 2(i) Filling of Casual Vacancy

HI 2(ii) Fianna Fáil Nomination - T. McDonald

HI 2(iii) Fianna Fáil Nomination - T. McDonald Acceptance

HI 2(iv) Vacancies on statutory bodies/committees

As a result of the resignation of Jacqueline Sheehy (Fianna Fáil) on 31 August 2025, a casual vacancy occurred on South Dublin County Council (Palmerstown-Fonthill Local Electoral Area).

**Section 19 of the Local Government Act 2001** provides that a casual vacancy shall be filled by the co-option by the Local Authority of a person to fill the vacancy and such co-option shall be made at the next meeting of the local authority after the expiration of 14 days from the occurrence of the vacancy or as soon after the expiration of the 14 days as circumstances permit.

**Ms. Tanya McDonald** has been nominated by Fianna Fáil to replace Jacqueline Sheehy, and in accordance with Section 19(5) Ms. Tanya McDonald's written consent to her proposed co-option has been received.

Members are required to ratify the co-option of Ms. Tanya McDonald at today's meeting.

The report was **NOTED** and it was proposed by Councillor E. Murphy and seconded by Councillor Y. Collins and **AGREED** that Tanya McDonald be co-opted to fill the vacancy and replace Jacqueline Sheehy.

Councillors E. Murphy, Y. Collins, B. Lawlor, L. O'Toole, J. Tuffy, W. Carey, N. Whelan and J. Sinnott congratulated Councillor T. McDonald and welcomed her to the council.

Councillor T. McDonald addressed the Members following her co-option.

Mr. C. Ward, Chief Executive welcomed Councillor T. McDonald and wished her well.

## Filling of vacancies on statutory bodies/committees

### REPORT:

Vacancies exist on the following statutory bodies/committees due to the resignation of Jaqueline Sheehy on 31 August 2025:

- Economic Development, Enterprise & Tourism Strategic Policy Committee
- Eastern Midlands Regional Assembly
- HSE Dublin & Midlands Health Forum
- Liffey Valley Management Advisory Committee

This is now before the Council for consideration

The report was **NOTED** and it was proposed by Councillor E. Murphy and seconded by Councillor Y. Collins and **AGREED**:

“That Tanya McDonald be co-opted to fill the vacancy to replace Jacqueline Sheehy, on Economic Development, Enterprise & Tourism Strategic Policy Committee, Eastern Midlands Regional Assembly, HSE Dublin & Midlands Health Forum and Liffey Valley Management Advisory Committee”

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 next and welcomed Mr G. Kennington, Chair of the Audit Committee to the meeting.

### **H10/0326** **AUDIT COMMITTEE - FOR APPROVAL**

The following reports which had been circulated, was presented by Mr. G. Kennington, Chair of Audit Committee, and was **CONSIDERED**.

[HI 10 \(a\) Annual Report of the Audit Committee 2025](#)

[HI 10 \(b\) Audit Committee Charter](#)

[HI 10 \(c\) Audit Committee Work Programme 2026](#)

A discussion followed with contribution from Councillor R. McMahon, with a query in relation to findings, and Councillor J. Tuffy.

It was **AGREED** by the members that Mr G. Kennington would respond separately to the members in relation to the query raised.

### **H3/0326** **REPORTS OF AREA COMMITTEES**

*It was **NOTED** that there was **no business** under this Heading.*

**H4/0326**     **STANDING COMMITTEES ORGANISATION, PROCEDURE & FINANCE**

*It was NOTED that there was no business under this Heading.*

**H5/0326**     **STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEES - FOR NOTING**

HI 5 (a)(i) Report of Arts, Culture, Gaeilge, Heritage and Libraries SPC Meeting held on 4th February 2026

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

HI 5 (b)(i) Report of Environment, Public Realm and Climate Change SPC meeting 3 February 2026

HI 5 (b)(ii) Minutes of Environment, Public Realm and Climate Change SPC meeting 3rd November 2025

HI 5 (c)(i) Report on Economic Development, Enterprise Tourism SPC meeting of 11th February, 2026

HI 5 (c)(ii) Minutes of Economic Development, Enterprise Tourism Meeting of 12th November 2025

HI 5 (d)(i) Report of the Housing SPC held 12th February 2026

HI 5 (d)(ii) Minutes of the Housing SPC held 19th November 2025

HI 5 (e)(i) Report on the Social, Community, Equality and Integration SPC meeting 11 February 2026

HI 5 (e)(ii) Minutes on the Social, Community, Equality and Integration SPC meeting 12th November 2025

HI 5 (f)(ii) Minutes of Land Use, Planning Transportation SPC- Nov 2025 Mins

The reports were **NOTED**.

**H6/0326**     **REPORTS REQUESTED BY AREA COMMITTEES**

*It was NOTED that there was no business under this Heading.*

**QUESTIONS**

It was proposed by Councillor P. Kearns and seconded by Councillor E. Murphy and **RESOLVED**:

**“That pursuant to Standing Order No. 22, Questions numbered Q1 – Q31 be ADOPTED and APPROVED”**

**Q1/0326**     **Councillor C. Brady**

To ask the Chief Executive to provide a report on private rented property inspections carried out by Global Home Warranties,

including the number of inspections undertaken in each Local Electoral Area (LEA), the issues identified and their frequency, whether enforcement orders were issued and the potential consequences of such orders, the number of referrals made to the Residential Tenancies Board in each LEA, and to make a statement on the matter.

**REPLY:**

The Residential Tenancies Board (RTB) is the statutory body responsible for the operation of a National Registration System for all private residential tenancies, Approved Housing Body (AHB), student specific accommodation and cost rental tenancies. There are ten specific legal breaches that the RTB can investigate and sanction landlords for. Breaches of the standards for rental accommodation is not one of those ten specific legal breaches. We are not required to report to the RTB details of issues identified under the standards.

The RTB issues to the local authority an inventory of properties for inspection within its administrative area. We are responsible for determining whether a property meets the standards for rental accommodation and, where the property does not, for ensuring compliance using improvement and prohibition notices and legal proceedings where necessary.

Our Private Rented Inspections team carries out a programme of planned inspections of properties and investigates complaints made by tenants. Proactive inspections are carried out by a combination of an external contractor and an in-house inspector who was appointed in September 2025. Health Service Executive Environmental Health Officers carry out an enforcement role on behalf of the council, performing a combination of proactive inspections and reactive inspections to investigate tenant complaints.

An external Contractor was appointed in September 2023 to carry out inspections of private rented accommodation under the Housing (Standards for Rented Houses) Regulations 2019. The typical inspection cycle constitutes a first inspection and one re-inspection. Where contraventions of the Regulations are identified, an improvement letter issues to the landlord detailing the contravention(s) and giving a timeframe for completion of works. Where there is continued non-compliance on completion of the inspection cycle, properties are escalated to the Environmental Health Office for follow up, with the view to achieving compliance. The Environmental Health Officers actively work with landlords to achieve compliance with the Regulations. Where, in the professional

opinion of the Environmental Health Officer it is deemed warranted, the following actions may be taken: -

- issue of an Improvement Notice, where there is a history of non-compliance with other measures such as improvement letters.
- issue of a Prohibition Notice, where a landlord fails to comply with an Improvement Notice.
- initiation of legal Proceedings, where a landlord fails to comply with the Improvement Notice.

The data set out below related to inspections carried out by the external contractor and spans the period from September 2023 when the contractor was appointed to date. It sets out contraventions under each of the ten Regulations. The RTB reporting system does not support the breakdown of information by Local Electoral Area, instead the list provided is broken down into Dublin region, by Eircode.

| Failures by Regulation (see below for description) |        |        |        |        |        |        |         |         |         |         | Improvement Letters issued to Landlord | Total Inspections carried out |
|--|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|---------|---------|---------|--|-------------------------------|
|  | Reg. 4 | Reg. 5 | Reg. 6 | Reg. 7 | Reg. 8 | Reg. 9 | Reg. 10 | Reg. 11 | Reg. 12 | Reg. 13 |  |                               |
| Dublin 6W  | 157    | 43     | 51     | 25     | 27     | 7      | 101     | 0       | 120     | 0       | 218                                    | 281                           |
| Dublin 10  | 11     | 4      | 0      | 0      | 8      | 0      | 11      | 0       | 2       | 0       | 11                                     | 11                            |
| Dublin 12  | 94     | 30     | 37     | 22     | 29     | 1      | 73      | 0       | 56      | 1       | 112                                    | 118                           |
| Dublin 14  | 210    | 35     | 70     | 24     | 49     | 6      | 172     | 1       | 139     | 6       | 276                                    | 337                           |
| Dublin 16  | 233    | 56     | 68     | 42     | 25     | 7      | 524     | 1       | 95      | 1       | 666                                    | 929                           |
| Dublin 20  | 107    | 34     | 47     | 19     | 22     | 4      | 62      | 1       | 50      | 2       | 163                                    | 325                           |
| Dublin 22  | 1085   | 305    | 414    | 236    | 202    | 42     | 732     | 15      | 468     | 20      | 1552                                   | 2295                          |
| Dublin 24  | 2384   | 475    | 767    | 457    | 391    | 64     | 1762    | 9       | 757     | 13      | 3282                                   | 4371                          |
| Lucan - K78  | 1217   | 293    | 559    | 233    | 182    | 31     | 941     | 6       | 685     | 43      | 2021                                   | 2989                          |

Regulation 4: Structural Condition

Regulation 5: Sanitary Facilities

Regulation 6: Heating Facilities

Regulation 7: Food Preparation and Storage and Laundry

Regulation 8: Ventilation

Regulation 9: Lighting

Regulation 10: Fire Safety

Regulation 11: Refuse Facilities

Regulation 12: Gas, Oil and Electricity Installations

Regulation 13: Information

Since appointment of the contractor in September 2023, twenty-two Improvement Notices and two Prohibition Notices have been served on landlords. Legal Proceedings have been initiated against the landlord of three properties, which are at various stages of progression with our Law Department. The potential outcome of legal proceedings is a fine of up to €1,270 and/or a criminal conviction.

**Q2/0326**

**Councillor L. de Courcy**

To ask the Chief Executive for a detailed report on the International Refugee Resettlement Programme (IRPP) that includes: an overview of the scheme and its objectives, the date the scheme commenced in South Dublin and the number of properties allocated under the scheme to date.

**REPLY:**

The Irish Refugee Protection Programme (IRPP) was established in 2015 to coordinate Ireland's commitments to international refugee protection. The programme provides a structured national approach to receiving refugees through UNHCR-led resettlement initiatives, EU relocation mechanisms, and community-based sponsorship models. Its core objective is to support refugees in transitioning safely and sustainably into community life through coordinated inter-agency support, appropriate housing provision, and access to public services.

Since its establishment, the Programme has operated in successive phases. IRPP II was approved in 2019 and provides for the resettlement of up to 2,900 refugees. The current phase, IRPP III (2024–2027), commits Ireland to welcoming 2,400 refugees under

UNHCR resettlement and a further 200 individuals through the Humanitarian Admissions Programme.

Under the national allocation model, local authorities are assigned resettlement quotas and are responsible for identifying suitable accommodation and coordinating local integration supports. Fourteen local authorities have been activated under the IRPP to date, with further authorities expected to come on stream on a phased basis, taking account of capacity and existing service pressures, including BOTP/IP numbers.

The IRPP has not yet commenced in South Dublin County Council, and as such, no properties have been allocated under the scheme in the South Dublin area to date.

**Q3/0326**

**Councillor L. de Courcy**

To ask the Chief Executive under what circumstances the planning department would recommend owners submit a planning application for a development where the proposal is incompatible with the current zoning regulations at that location and to explain the reasons why this would be encouraged?

**REPLY:**

The decision to submit a planning application rest solely with a landowner or other interested party, with the role of the Planning Authority being to assess and determine any application received in accordance with the Development Plan, national policy and relevant planning legislation. The County Development Plan provides a framework to support sustainable growth and development across the County, and the Planning Authority aims to provide a proactive planning service, including preplanning, that facilitates appropriate development in the right locations. This includes engaging with applicants at pre-application stage.

In accordance with Section 247 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), the Planning Authority may engage in pre-application consultations to provide general advice on the planning process, relevant Development Plan objectives and other material considerations. Such consultations are without prejudice to the formal assessment or determination of any subsequent planning application and do not indicate that permission would be forthcoming.

Where a planning application is submitted for development listed as “not permitted” under the applicable land use zoning objective, such development would generally not be permitted. However, there are limited circumstances, where specific exceptions are provided for

within the Development Plan including if a proposal contributes to the sensitive re-use of a protected structure, that the Planning Authority may consider the principle of a proposal listed as 'not permitted'. The consideration of individual planning assessments is set out in the relevant Chief Executive Orders, available on the SDCC Planning Portal.

**Q4/0326** **Councillor L. de Courcy**

To ask the Chief Executive what weight is given to objections submitted by members of the public to planning applications where it is clear from the volume of objections that the proposed development is largely unwelcome in the area and to explain why these objections may be disregarded.

**REPLY:**

The Planning Authority does not disregard submissions or observations made by members of the public. In determining a planning application, the Planning Authority is required, under Section 34(3) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), to have regard to all written submissions and observations received. All submissions are considered, the planning issues raised are summarised in the Chief Executives Order, and matters that are relevant to the assessment of the application are addressed as part of the decision-making process.

In accordance with Section 34(2) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), the Planning Authority must base its decision on the proper planning and sustainable development of the area, having regard, inter alia, to the provisions of the Development Plan, ministerial guidelines issued under Section 28, relevant environmental designations, Government policy and other relevant statutory considerations. In this context, the number or volume of objections received, or the extent of local opposition, is not of itself a determining factor. Submissions are assessed on the basis of the material planning considerations raised and matters that do not relate to planning and sustainable development cannot be afforded determining weight in the decision on a planning application.

**Q5/0326** **Councillor L. de Courcy**

To ask the Chief Executive does the planning department investigate and take account of potential previous breaches of enforcement when reviewing new applications?

**REPLY:**

In determining a planning application, the Planning Authority is required under Section 34 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) to consider the proper planning and sustainable development of the area, having regard to the Development Plan, national policy, ministerial guidelines and other relevant statutory considerations.

As part of the assessment of a planning application, the Planning Authority will have regard to the planning history of the site, which includes an examination of the planning register, where relevant, including any extant planning permissions and any enforcement notices recorded on the register. Where relevant, and as provided for under Section 34(2) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), the Planning Authority may also have regard to established matters such as previous developments by the applicant which have not been satisfactorily completed, or previous convictions for non-compliance with planning act or the Building Control Act 2007 or the Fire Services Act 1981.

Alleged or unproven potential breaches of planning cannot be relied upon in the assessment of a planning application, and undue reliance on such matters could expose the Planning Authority to legal challenge. Any refusal of permission must be based on substantiated planning grounds that are relevant to the application before the Planning Authority and capable of being defended on appeal or before the courts. However, where a proposed development would facilitate or support the continuation or intensification of an unauthorised use or development, this may constitute a relevant planning consideration in the assessment of the application.

**Q6/0326**

**Councillor L. de Courcy**

To ask the Chief Executive what procedures are in place when information about a potentially violent or dangerous international protection applicant being located/relocated in South Dublin is brought to the attention of the council, acknowledging International Protection Accommodation Service centres are beyond the remit of the council but also acknowledging the responsibility of the council to engage with An Garda Síochána and the Community Engagement Team of the Department of Justice.

**REPLY:**

While the operation and management of International Protection Accommodation Service (IPAS) centres are a matter for the Department of Justice and are outside the direct remit of the Council, South Dublin County Council has clear procedures in place for

responding when information relating to potential safety or security concerns is brought to its attention.

Where information is received indicating that an international protection applicant may pose a risk to public safety, the matter is immediately escalated through established engagement channels with the Department of Justice Community Engagement Team and, where appropriate, An Garda Síochána. The Community Engagement Team meets regularly with management and relevant stakeholders to raise and address any concerns, ensure appropriate information sharing, and coordinate responses within their respective statutory responsibilities. The Council continues to fully support and participate in this engagement framework.

Management of all IPAS centres maintains an ongoing working relationship with local Gardaí. Any concerns relating to alleged violence, criminal behaviour, or threats to community safety within an IPAS setting are referred directly to An Garda Síochána, who are responsible for operational policing matters and the investigation of any alleged criminal activity.

In addition, the Department of Justice, through its Community Engagement Team, is committed to ensuring that local communities and elected representatives have access to accurate and timely information and will continue to engage with local representatives as issues arise. The Council will continue to facilitate cooperation between all relevant agencies, within its statutory role, in the interests of community safety and reassurance.

**Q7/0326**

**Councillor L. Dunne**

To ask the Chief Executive to outline engagement with the National Catchment-based Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM), to secure funding for monitoring and mitigation of flooding in trouble spots throughout the county and share these plans with councillors.

**REPLY:**

The National Catchment-based Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) Programme was a comprehensive national study initiated by the Office of Public Works (OPW) in collaboration with Local Authorities and supported by external consultants. This programme identified and mapped both existing and potential flood risks in specific areas that were considered to be at significant risk from flooding, referred to as Areas for Further Assessment (AFAs). As part of its remit, the CFRAM Programme produced detailed flood risk maps and identified a range of structural and non-structural measures to manage the assessed risks within each AFA at a national scale. The

outcomes and recommended management strategies were compiled into a series of 29 'Flood Risk Management Plans' published in 2018.

The OPW and South Dublin County Council (SDCC) are working together to implement the schemes arising from the CFRAM Programme, in line with the recommendations outlined in the 'Flood Risk Management Plans'. Several flood alleviation schemes (FAS) are currently underway.

- The River Poddle Flood Alleviation Scheme (FAS) is presently at the construction stage. Significant components of this scheme have been completed, including the development of a new attenuation area in Tymon Park. This new infrastructure proved effective during Storm Chandra, helping to mitigate downstream impacts and resulting in substantially lower water flows into the Kimmage and Harolds Cross areas.
- The Whitechurch Stream FAS is also currently under construction.
- The River Camac FAS is at the design stage.

Several additional schemes are being considered for future implementation:

- Chapelizod FAS (from Lucan to Chapelizod), a project being led by Dublin City Council under a Framework for Consultancy Services.
- Future phases of the River Dodder scheme: Phase 3 will cover Clonskeagh to Orwell Road, with Phase 4 planned for the SDCC area.
- Shinkeen FAS.
- Owendoher FAS.
- Griffeen FAS.

Regular updates on both current and planned flood alleviation schemes are provided to the Environment, Public Realm, and Climate Change Strategic Policy Committee (SPC). In addition, these schemes are included in SDCC's Capital Programme updates, which are shared with Councillors.

Further details regarding ongoing, completed, and future flood relief schemes managed by the OPW can be accessed online at [www.floodinfo.ie/scheme-info](http://www.floodinfo.ie/scheme-info)

To enhance the ongoing monitoring of flood risk throughout the county, SDCC's Natural Water division is exploring the installation of additional river level gauges at key strategic locations along local rivers. These gauges may be further upgraded through the integration of still cameras and alarms on the river screens to provide real-time data and alerts.

**Q8/0326**

**Councillor H. Farrell**

To ask the Chief Executive what procedure will be followed when considering Proposed Variation No. 2 to the South Dublin County Development Plan 2022–2028, and will each location proposed for rezoning, amendment, or designation be voted on separately by the elected members in May 2026, rather than as a single composite decision?

**REPLY:**

A Chief Executive's Report on the submissions received during the public consultation will be prepared and submitted to the elected members in advance of a Special Meeting of the Council. The date of the meeting is to be confirmed and will be subject to the volume of issues raised in the public consultation. Members will be given a timeframe to submit motions ahead of the Special Meeting.

At that meeting, the members will be required to make decisions having considered the Proposed Variation No. 2 to the South Dublin County Development Plan 2022–2028 and the report of the Chief Executive, in accordance with the provisions of the Planning and Development Act 2024 (as amended).

The Chief Executive's Report will summarise the submissions received and as required by legislation, will respond to the issues raised, having regard to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area, the statutory obligations of the planning authority, and any relevant policies or objectives of the Government or of any Minister of the Government. The report will set out the recommendations of the Chief Executive in respect of each land area or other proposed amendment, identified by its individual amendment reference number.

For example, Adamstown SDZ West is identified in the Book of Maps as Amendment Reference No. 2, and submissions in relation to this area will be summarised, responded to, and accompanied by a specific recommendation under that reference.

At the Special Meeting, the consideration of the proposed variation will proceed in amendment order. Decisions will be made on the basis of motions put forward by the elected members. Where a motion is proposed in respect of a specific location or amendment, that motion will be debated and voted on. Where no motion is proposed in respect of a particular amendment, the recommendation of the Chief Executive as set out in the report will stand.

Where decisions of the elected members give rise to material alterations to the proposed variation, these will be subject to further public consultation in accordance with statutory requirements.

**Q9/0326**

**Councillor H. Farrell**

To ask the Chief Executive if the number of ground floor vacant retail units in the county is known or collated?

**REPLY:**

South Dublin County Council does not currently maintain a consolidated record of ground floor vacant retail units in the county. Since the discontinuation of commercial rates refunds for vacant premises in 2025, the Council no longer receives the administrative notifications that previously enabled vacancy tracking.

Notwithstanding the absence of a formal vacancy dataset, the Council continues to advance measures that support the vitality of local retail centres. The SDCC Economic Strategy outlines a commitment to strengthening the county's retail offering, including enhancing major retail centres, supporting business growth, and improving the overall attractiveness and functionality of commercial areas. These strategic objectives guide ongoing work to monitor the health of retail environments and promote sustainable occupancy.

In addition to this, the Council has recently published its Tallaght Evening Time Economy Plan, which has a series of initiatives to address retail unit vacancy within Tallaght town centre. At the time of preparing the Tallaght Evening Time Economy Plan, there were a total of 18 vacant retail units within the town centre and in response to this, the strategy outlines a series of priority actions including proactively working with property owners to address commercial vacancy, as well as creating an evening time economy grant support scheme for businesses, which seeks to support the introduction of new hospitality and evening time economy uses in vacant commercial units. In delivering the Tallaght Evening Time Economy Plan, its impact on addressing ground floor commercial units' vacancy levels will be monitored, with the potential for any successful initiatives derived from its implementation to be rolled out on a phased basis across the county.

Allied to the objectives of SDCC's Economic Strategy and the Tallaght Evening Time Economy Plan, the Council also operates a business support fund, which seeks to support local businesses and address the issue of vacancy in industrial areas, with 22 projects supported by

SDCC under this initiative in 2025. A core objective of the business support fund aims to address areas experiencing high levels of obsolescence, dereliction, vacancy, and abandonment. One of the funds is specifically aimed at supporting existing small-scale businesses and start-up businesses utilising previously vacant units. In 2026, the Economic Development Strategic Policy Committee will explore the potential for the business support fund to be expanded to help address vacancy in ground floor commercial units as part of the implementation of the Tallaght Evening Time Economy Plan.

Complementing these measures which currently support addressing commercial unit vacancy in the county, the Council also operates the Shopfront Grant Scheme, which provides financial assistance to independently owned businesses seeking to improve their shopfronts. The scheme funds up to 50% of eligible works, helping maintain high-quality, visually appealing streetscapes and supporting the broader goals of local economic resilience.

Further information on the Shopfront Grant Scheme is available at: <https://www.sdcc.ie/en/services/business/shop-front-improvement-grant/>

In looking to the future, the Council will further explore different measures available to assist in addressing commercial vacancy levels within the county, engaging with South Dublin Chamber and working with the Economic Development SPC as part of this process.

**Q10/0326 Councillor H. Farrell**

To ask the Chief Executive for details of public toilets provided across the county by SDCC, including the availability of facilities within public attractions and amenities.

**REPLY:**

As part of the implementation of the Council's Tourism Strategy, SDCC is developing a network of tourism attractions across the county, including the development of the Dublin Mountains Visitor Centre, Rathfarnham Stables and Courtyards, Tallaght Heritage Centre, the 12<sup>th</sup> Lock Masterplan and the Lucan House Masterplan. All of these public attractions when developed will include toilet facilities for the public, supporting the overall visitor experience for people visiting these destinations and enjoying their cultural and amenity value. In delivering its tourism objectives, the Council has already developed the Brú Chrónáin Round Tower Visitor Centre in Clondalkin, which also provides toilets for use by visitors to this tourism destination.

In addition to the Council's tourism assets (both existing and planned), SDCC's cultural facilities such as Rua Red and The Civic theatre have toilet facilities for patrons use, whilst the Council's network of community centres, sports centres and libraries also provide toilet facilities.

SDCC's Parks and Open Space Strategy allows for the provision of public toilets, ideally be in tandem with the provision of other visitor facilities such as coffee shops or tea rooms. Where this is not feasible, the provision of toilets in other supervised locations or in partnership with adjacent community centres, will be considered. As part of the delivery of that strategy SDCC are implementing small coffee shops and tea rooms in parks. A coffee shop with sports changing facilities has been provided in Airlie Park in Adamstown. Tymon Park Centre recently opened at Tymon Park, with coffee shop, meeting space / activity area, public toilets and an outdoor terrace to facilitate intergenerational outdoor use that can interact with the park location. The Park House Café; with outdoor plaza, play and picnic area and small event space has also recently opened at Corkagh Park. These facilities increase dwell time in the park and provide for toilet facilities in a pleasant, supervised and easy to maintain manner.

**Q11/0326 Councillor N. Fennell**

To ask the Chief Executive how many solar bins are expected to be further delivered in phase two of this initiative, broken down by Local Electoral Areas.

**REPLY:**

The first phase of the provision of solar compactor bins has been completed with installations of over 100 units across Tallaght, Rathfarnham, Clondalkin in quarter three of 2025 and more recently in Lucan. To date, SDCC operates 102 solar compactor bins which will also support reducing the council's daily operational carbon footprint.

The three-year capital programme 2026 -2028, has provided additional funding of €500,000 (€250,000 in 2026 and €250,000 in 2027) for the continuation of the phased role out of solar compactor bins. The additional installations will be targeted at high-footfall areas such as town/village/district centres and busy park entrances. In 2026, approximately 50 units will be installed across the villages of Rathcoole, Saggart, Palmerstown and Templeogue, as part of the second phase of the project. Location of units, for each village, are being finalised and an update to Councillors will issue shortly. A further 50 units will be installed in 2027 as part of the third

phase, with locations to be determined based on the operational demands of the existing bin provision within the county.

**Q12/0326 Councillor P. Holohan**

To ask the Chief Executive what procedures apply when a relationship breaks down between joint occupants of a council property, specifically regarding the eligibility of the departing tenant to access the housing waiting list or homeless services?

**REPLY:**

Our Allocation Scheme outlines the policy in respect of the breakdown of a joint tenancy. It states that where there is an existing tenancy of a dwelling provided by the council to tenants who were married but who have executed a Deed of Separation or obtained a Decree of Judicial Separation or Divorce, the council will have regard to the terms of such agreement or court order, insofar as it relates to the status of the tenancy. In cases where a Property Adjustment Order has been made by court order, the council will give effect, subject to the terms of the order to any such order transferring the tenancy to a sole tenant, provided a certified true copy of the court order is furnished to the council. If the order is unclear in its effect, the applicant must ensure it is clarified or corrected.

In cases where a sole tenant vacates a dwelling provided by the local authority, leaving a spouse, cohabitant or civil partner in occupation, we may, after due consideration of all known and relevant circumstances approve the allocation of the dwelling to the remaining spouse, cohabitant or civil partner (if any), provided:

-A Form of Surrender, witnessed by a practising solicitor, is signed by the tenant and delivered to the council.

-The remaining spouse, cohabitant, or civil partner has resided in the dwelling for at least two years, has been assessed for rent purposes, and is not the owner of any property; or, where the remaining spouse, cohabitant or civil partner left the dwelling for a period but subsequently returned, they must have resided in the dwelling with the lawful tenant, with the permission of the council, for at least one year prior to the tenant vacating, and must not own any other property.

-The remaining spouse, cohabitant or civil partner meets the eligibility criteria to qualify for social housing support with the council.

Applicants must furnish any additional information, including documents or other particulars, that we may reasonably request for the purposes of verifying information relating to their application. The following conditions will apply:

- There must be a clear rent account (this condition may be waived on exceptional compassionate grounds).
- Compliance with the terms of tenancy during the existing tenancy.
- Acceptance of the dwelling in its existing condition.
- The dwelling must meet the housing need of the applicant.
- The applicant must have no record of anti-social behaviour.

Former local authority tenants who apply for re-housing will only be placed on the housing list if the following conditions are met:

- A period of two years has elapsed since the surrender of the previous tenancy (this may be waived in exceptional circumstances).
- The rent account on their previous tenancy is clear, or a satisfactory arrangement acceptable to the local authority is made to clear arrears and is maintained for at least six months. However, no offer of accommodation will be made until arrears are cleared.
- Compliance with the terms of the previous tenancy was satisfactory.
- Any costs incurred by the local authority in carrying out repairs that were the tenant's responsibility must be refunded in full or repaid under a satisfactory arrangement maintained for at least six months. Time on the list will accrue only when all outstanding charges are cleared.

**Q13/0326 Councillor P. Holohan**

To ask the Chief Executive have any council homes in SDCC been allocated to the International Protection Accommodation Service (IPAS) system?

**REPLY:**

The International Protection Accommodation Service (IPAS) is responsible for providing accommodation and associated supports – including healthcare, social welfare and educational services – to individuals seeking International Protection. Since 1 May 2025, responsibility for IPAS accommodation services has rested with the Department of Justice, Home Affairs and Migration.

SDCC social housing units have not been allocated or made available to the IPAS system. Our social housing stock continues to be used solely for households on the social housing waiting list in accordance with our Allocation Scheme.

**Q14/0326 Councillor D. McManus**

To ask the Chief Executive if there is an early estimated cost for SDCC associated with storm Chandra with the associated clean-up

and extra resources deployed in an emergency situation, recognising the exceptional response of our public realm crews?

**REPLY:**

The early estimated cost incurred by SDCC in the immediate response to storm Chandra is in the region of €150,000. In recognition of the exceptional costs incurred by Local Authorities, the National Directorate for Fire & Emergency Management within the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage has introduced a funding mechanism to enable Local Authorities to submit claims in respect of these initial response costs.

SDCC will submit an exceptional costs recoupment claim to the Department covering expenditure associated with the immediate response to storm Chandra. This includes the hire of plant and contractors for essential works, the purchase of equipment and materials required for response and clean-up operations and staff overtime payments directly attributable to the event.

Expenditure on capital items arising from longer term remediation measures, such as the reinstatement of roads, works to social housing units, or works relating to programmes funded by other SDCC Departments do not form part of this recoupment claim.

**Q15/0326 Councillor E. Ó Broin**

To ask the Chief Executive how the public can keep track of planning enforcement cases that are before the courts?

**REPLY:**

Members of the public who have made a complaint and are recorded as complainants on a planning enforcement file are notified at each statutory stage of the enforcement process, including when a case is referred to the Council's law agent for the initiation of court proceedings.

At present, key planning enforcement documentation, including Warning Letters issued under Section 152 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and Enforcement Notices issued under Section 154 are available for public inspection through the statutory planning register.

In addition, planning enforcement cases that are before the courts appear on the standard court lists published by the Courts Service, which are publicly available and provide a further means by which the progress of cases before the courts can be tracked.

It should be noted that there is no statutory timeframe for the progression of planning enforcement cases to, or through, the courts. Timelines can vary depending on a range of factors, including the complexity of the case, the availability of evidence, legal resources, and court scheduling, and this may result in cases being adjourned on one or more occasions.

As a Planning Authority, the Council is fully committed to transparency in the operation of the planning enforcement system, while acting strictly within the limits of the governing legislative frameworks, including the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), the Freedom of Information regime, and data protection requirements. In this context, the Council does not engage in any form of promotion or publicity that could compromise the integrity of the legal process or interfere with statutory procedures.

**Q16/0326** **Councillor E. Ó Broin**

To ask the Chief Executive to explain the rationale for providing window and door upgrades to certain houses on a road while others did not receive similar improvements.

**REPLY:**

We have commenced a programme of periodic property inspections, whereby properties will be inspected on a 5-year cycle. The findings of the surveys will feed into an ongoing multi-annual Stock Investment Programme which will include the window and door replacement with the aim to reduce the current level of reactive maintenance requests and to improve the overall value for money and enhanced delivery of the service to tenants.

Properties identified with windows and doors in 'Poor' or 'Very Poor' condition are prioritised and subsequently referred to the planned maintenance team for inclusion in the windows and doors works programme.

**Q17/0326** **Councillor J. Sinnott**

To ask the Chief Executive if the Council has a policy in relation to the provision of defibrillators in residential estates by local resident's associations, and to make a statement on the matter?

**REPLY:**

South Dublin County Council does not have a policy in relation to the provision of defibrillators in residential estates by local resident's associations.

Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) are provided throughout the County by a wide variety of groups and organisations including community groups, residents associations, sports clubs, shopping centres, individual pharmacies and private commercial companies. The installation, upkeep and maintenance of AEDs is the responsibility of the relevant committee, management or company.

The Community Sport Facilities Fund (formerly the Sports Capital & Equipment Programme) operated by the Department of Culture, Communication and Sport funds the purchase of AEDs by voluntary, not-for profit sports clubs and community groups. Funding is also available through the HSE's national lottery grants schemes.

SDCC has installed AEDs in County Hall, Tallaght in the Clondalkin Civic Offices and at public libraries.

**Q18/0326 Councillor J. Sinnott**

To ask the Chief Executive what types of trees are planted in the public realm and in residential estates and how are the types of trees chosen for locations.

**REPLY:**

SDCC's recently updated 'Living with Trees' policy outlines a selection of 46 different species of trees suitable for planting within the public realm. Of these, 33 are designated for open spaces while the remaining 13 are intended specifically for street tree planting. These lists serve as guidance to the type of species considered appropriate for street planting. It is not an exhaustive list, and other trees may also be considered suitable for planting.

The choice of street trees is determined by several factors, including mature size, water requirements, crown shape, root development and ongoing management needs. Trees used in council-led planting programmes are selected based on local policy, arboriculture expertise, and practical experience. The council prioritises planting native species where possible, particularly in parks and open spaces, and also for street trees. However, we recognise the importance of species diversity to ensure climate resilience and to protect against the risk of disease or other environmental threats.

Tree planting on development sites is managed through interdepartmental collaboration and engagement with design teams. The council requires that comprehensive tree planting plans are submitted as part of planning applications and ensures that these plans are implemented on site.

Each year suitable planting spaces are identified across the county. Proposed planting sites are inspected for suitability, taking into account factors such as underground and overhead services, visibility lines, signage, traffic signals, and space for future growth including root development. If a site is deemed appropriate, a suitable species is chosen for planting, following the 'right tree, right place' principle. Careful selection of trees and planting locations is essential to minimise future nuisances and reduce maintenance costs.

Over the past two years this approach has resulted in the planting of over 7,000 trees throughout the county, along with 34,775 native whips as part of the Mini Woodlands programme.

**Q19/0326 Councillor J. Sinnott**

To ask the Chief Executive whether a formal process exists for a sports club to transfer usage of an SDCC owned pitch to another club?

**REPLY:**

SDCC manages an extensive network of over 1,750 hectares of parks and open spaces throughout the county. Among these, the larger parks offer a comprehensive range of recreational amenities, supporting both active and passive activities. Notably, these amenities include approximately 170 playing pitches and various sports facilities. The infrastructure accommodates a wide array of sporting clubs and activities, such as Gaelic Football, Hurling, Soccer, Rugby, Cricket, Rounders, Softball, Baseball, Athletics, and American Football, among others.

The availability and accessibility of SDCC's recreational facilities play an important role in advancing the Government's aim to foster a more active and healthier society. This commitment aligns with the objectives set out in Healthy Ireland: A Framework for Improved Health and Wellbeing 2013–2025, which continues to guide national health policy.

SDCC issues specific terms and conditions to every club that receives a pitch allocation. These terms, as referenced in item 8 of the agreement, stipulate that clubs are prohibited from transferring their interest in the allocation agreement to any third party. This includes, but is not limited to, private coaching services, other clubs, or sporting organisations, in relation to the facilities or any part thereof. Furthermore, clubs that are unable to utilise their full allocation are required to notify the Council without delay.

SDCC is responsible for the transfer of use of an SDCC-owned pitch to another club should this matter arise.

Q19 (b) Allocation of pitches and facilities Terms and Conditions 2025/2026

**Q20/0326 Councillor J. Sinnott**

To ask the Chief Executive, in light of the excessive rain and storms so far in 2026, has additional funding been made available to address issues that have been caused including flooding?

**REPLY:**

The 2026 budget has been approved by the elected members and no additional funding has been made available by SDCC.

However, in recognition of the exceptional costs incurred by Local Authorities arising from storm Chandra, the National Directorate for Fire & Emergency Management within the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage has introduced a funding mechanism to enable Local Authorities to submit claims in respect of these initial response costs.

SDCC will submit an exceptional costs recoupment claim to the Department, covering expenditure associated with the immediate response to storm Chandra. This includes the hire of plant and contractors for essential works, the purchase of equipment and materials required for response and clean-up operations and staff overtime payments directly attributable to the event. Early estimated costs are in the region of €150,000. There will be additional Capital costs associated with roads remediation works at Cruagh Road and Ballinascorney.

The response funding initiative by the Department is welcomed. Any future funding support in the event of further storms or flooding will be considered by the Department on a case-by-case basis.

**Q21/0326 Councillor J. Sinnott**

To ask the Chief Executive to outline the criteria for the replacement of residential estate signage in South Dublin County?

**REPLY:**

Where a housing estate has been taken in charge by the Council, responsibility for the maintenance of residential estate road signage, including nameplates, rests with the Council. In such cases, where road name signage is damaged or defaced, this can be reported to

the Council and the Road Maintenance Section will arrange for replacement of the signage.

Where a housing estate remains private, or where the Taking in Charge process has not been fully completed, responsibility for the maintenance and replacement of road signage rests with the developer.

In addition, there is a commitment within the current three-year Capital Programme (2026–2028) to a signage replacement programme to ensure compliance with the statutory requirements of the Official Languages Act

**Q22/0326** **Councillor J. Sinnott**

To ask the Chief Executive if details could be provided on the number of homes purchased through the Incremental Tenant Purchase Scheme in 2025?

**REPLY:**

Tenants can apply to the council to purchase their Local Authority home through the Tenant (Incremental) Purchase Scheme 2016.

In 2025, 72 applications were processed under the Tenant (Incremental) Purchase Scheme with 11 sales completed to the value of €1,174,000.

Applicants must have a minimum primary reckonable annual income of €11,000 and be in receipt of social housing supports for at least 10 years. In the case of joint applications, one of the two tenants must be in receipt of social housing supports for at least 10 years, as determined by the local authority in accordance with the rules of the scheme.

Full information on the Tenant (Incremental) Purchase Scheme 2016 is available on the Councils website [Buying a Home - SDCC](#) and the sales scheme team are available to assist and can be contacted at [hloanacc@sdblincoco.ie](mailto:hloanacc@sdblincoco.ie).

**Q23/0326** **Councillor A. Smyth**

To ask the Chief Executive if SDCC is planning to introduce screens at Tallaght Stadium following the trial in April last year, and if so, could they also be used to promote upcoming SDCC events to help increase attendance across the county?

**REPLY:**

The Council is supportive of the provision of a large spectator screen at Tallaght Stadium and the potential for such infrastructure to add to the visitor experience associated with stadium events. In this regard, the addition of a large spectator screen is currently being explored as part of an ongoing capital development programme for Tallaght Stadium.

The provision of a large screen will be subject to a feasibility assessment, including understanding the technical requirements relating to broadcast rights to support replays of live action being shown to spectators, as well as the prioritisation of broader capital development works to enhance the stadium's offering and to ensure the continued high performance of Tallaght Stadium.

The utilisation of any screens to advertise SDCC events would be subject to event management agreements and advertising arrangements at each individual event, with input from the relevant event promoter as part of any agreements put in place.

**Q24/0326 Councillor A. Smyth**

To ask the Chief Executive for a report on the number of privately owned properties leased to SDCC for social housing under 25â€'year leases, and whether the council has considered purchasing these properties at the end of the lease rather than relocating tenants.

**REPLY:**

SDCC currently has 320 privately owned properties; these are on 25-year lease agreements. Any proposal to introduce a scheme to purchase multiple privately leased properties at the end of a long-term lease would require specific policy direction and approval from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. At present, no such directive has been issued.

Should national policy change in this regard, we would implement any revised guidance accordingly.

**Q25/0326 Councillor A. Smyth**

To ask the Chief Executive to provide a report on litter and illegal dumping enforcement in 2025, including the number of reports or complaints received, the number of fines issued, and the number of warning letters issued and followed up.

**REPLY:**

SDCC utilises a variety of systems to effectively record, manage, and monitor environmental queries, complaints, and inspections. The Members' Representation System documents queries submitted by

Local Elected Representatives, environmental-related queries are generally treated as non-routine inspections. Each query is forwarded to the appropriate section and assigned to an appropriate staff member or team for further action.

The Environmental Complaints System (ECS) is employed to log complaints from members of the public, with each case tracked from initial report through to enforcement or prosecution, and responsible staff assigned at each stage. Additional Council departments may also record environmental issues requiring follow-up within this system. Complaints received from external sources, such as the EPA's National Environmental Complaints Line and the *See It, Say It* app, are entered into the system if they necessitate environmental inspection.

Litter Wardens conduct inspections and enforce provisions under the Litter Pollution Act 1997 (as amended), while Waste Enforcement Officers perform their duties under the Waste Management Act 1996 (as amended). Each Act grants distinct enforcement powers; for example, fixed payment notices for littering offences may only be issued under the Litter Pollution Act 1997, as amended.

Breakdown of enforcement actions carried out in 2025 in relation to litter and illegal dumping are as below:

|                    | <b>Complaints Received &amp; Investigated</b> | <b>Fines Issued</b> | <b>Warning Letters/ Notices</b> | <b>Directions under WMA</b> | <b>Legal Referrals</b> |
|--------------------|---|---------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| Litter Enforcement | 1360  | 242                 | 63                              | N/A                         | 94                     |
| Waste Enforcement  | 40  | N/A                 | 14                              | 5                           | 4                      |

In 2025, SDCC also installed CCTV at known dumping hotspots in accordance with the LGMA's Code of Practice. These installations were temporary and resulted in three legal proceedings being initiated.

**Q26/O326 Councillor A. Smyth**

To ask the Chief Executive for a breakdown of Halloween clean-up costs in 2025, by area where possible.

**REPLY:**

As part of the assessment of costs resulting from Halloween 2025, the Public Realm team identified approximately 210 individual bonfires, across 157 locations. A breakdown of the locations per electoral areas is identified in the table below.

| Local Electoral Area     | Number of reported Halloween bonfires 2025 |
|--------------------------|--|
| Lucan                    | 6  |
| Palmerstown - Fonthill   | 56   |
| Clondalkin               | 34   |
| Tallaght Central         | 10   |
| Tallaght South           | 39   |
| Firhouse - Bohernabreena | 3  |
| Rathfarnham - Templeogue | 9  |
| <b>Total</b>             | <b>157</b>                                 |

The total cost for the collection of all waste and the necessary repairs and reinstatement of grass areas, resulting from Halloween 2025, is approximately €165,000.

**Q27/0326 Councillor E. Timmons**

To ask the Chief Executive to outline the procedures for removing a named person from a tenancy or lease where a barring order or safety order is in place, and where risk is substantiated by An Garda Síochána and/or a recognised women's refuge.

**REPLY:**

A Safety Order is an order issued by the court which prohibits an individual from committing further acts of violence or making threats of violence. A Safety Order is insufficient grounds to remove a joint tenant or occupier from a rent account, unless the order explicitly prohibits the individual from residing at the property.

A Barring Order is a court-mandated directive that requires an individual to vacate the home and prohibits them from re-entering the property. A Barring Order serves as sufficient evidence to remove an individual as an 'occupier' from a rent account and the income of an excluded tenant may be disregarded for the purpose of rent calculation. However, the joint tenant will remain a named tenant on the tenancy until they submit a surrender to terminate their tenancy.

An occupier may be granted permission to reside at a council property and may be assessed for rent purposes; however, this does not grant an automatic right to succeed to, or transfer, the tenancy. A barring order obtained by an occupier does not constitute sufficient grounds for the involuntary removal of a sole tenant from their tenancy. As the tenant has entered into a formal legal tenancy agreement with the local authority, they retain specific legal rights under current housing legislation

**Q28/0326** **Councillor F. Timmons**

To ask the Chief Executive for a detailed report into the traffic study for SDCC that includes areas it will cover, the process and timeframe?

**REPLY:**

Further to the provisions of the South Dublin County Council Three-Year Capital Programme (2026–2028), it is envisaged that a Transport Assessment and Transport Plan will be prepared for the western area of the County. This work is expected to include the review and confirmation of an indicative study area covering Rathcoole, Newcastle, Saggart, Greenogue, Grange Castle and Lucan. The inclusion of Palmerstown, either within this study area or as a standalone study and plan, will be considered and confirmed as part of the scoping process.

The potential study area has been identified having regard to, inter alia, Specific Local Objective SM6 SLO 1 of the South Dublin County Development Plan 2022–2028, population growth and housing targets set out in the National Planning Framework Revision and Guidelines (2025), Development Plan zonings including Proposed Variation No. 2, the distribution of employment lands and population, existing and planned public transport and active travel infrastructure, Census 2022 transport data, and issues raised through Area Committee questions and motions relating to traffic management.

It is envisaged that the Transport Assessment and Transport Plan will be developed using an Area-Based Transport Assessment (ABTA) methodology, in accordance with TII and NTA guidance, and that one or more Local Transport Plans will be prepared. Subject to the final scope, the process is expected to include public consultation and will assess existing and future travel demand across all transport modes, review existing and planned transport infrastructure and services, identify the need for additional transport interventions, assess options including phasing and cost implications, and identify an integrated package of transport solutions.

Subject to the successful procurement of a consultancy team, it is intended that work on the Transport Assessment and Transport Plan will commence in Q2 2026. In parallel, it is intended to identify a number of interim local measures to address traffic management issues within the study area.

**Q29/0326 Councillor F. Timmons**

To ask the Chief Executive to provide an update on recent proposed changes to planning requirements for log cabins and modular homes in rear gardens, and to outline any engagement with the Minister on this matter.

**REPLY:**

Draft Exempted Development Regulations were published by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage for public consultation, with a closing date of 26 August 2025. The draft proposals included the exemption from planning permission of modular-style residential units of up to 45 sq. m located to the rear of existing dwellings. The Department's website indicates that in excess of 900 submissions were received as part of this consultation process.

The consultation formed part of the Implementation Plan for the Planning and Development Act 2024. To date, no further update or finalised regulations have issued from the Department. The Council has not engaged directly with the Minister on this matter.

**Q30/0326 Councillor F. Timmons**

To ask the Chief Executive for a detailed report into protected species in SDCC and what efforts SDCC make to protect them?

**REPLY:**

The National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS), operating within the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage is the main state body responsible for the protection, conservation and management of Ireland's protected wildlife species and habitats. The overarching functions of the NPWS include maintaining the checklist of protected and threatened species, monitoring and reporting on the status of protected species under the EU habitats directive and overseeing protection under the Wildlife Acts, Flora protection order and the Bird and Habitats Directive.

The NPWS publish the authoritative checklist of protected and threatened species – “checklist of protected and threatened species in Ireland” while The National Biodiversity Data Centre (NBDC)

provide a public mapping portal where protected species can be filtered by County. (<https://maps.biodiversityireland.ie>)

South Dublin County has a rich and varied natural heritage that includes a number of unique habitats, areas of natural interest and species that are designated for conservation under national and European legislation.

Protected sites located within the County under European legislation include Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) under the Habitats Directive and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) under the Birds Directive, known collectively as Natura 2000 sites. The Wildlife Acts underpin nature conservation and biodiversity in Ireland and provide for Natural Heritage Areas and proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHAs). These areas host a rich variety of rare, protected and vulnerable habitats and species and areas of geological interest. Wildlife networks and areas located outside of protected sites can also host a diverse and rich variety of rare, protected and vulnerable habitats and species.

The Council protects species and habitats through its Development Plan policies and objectives particular relating to designated Natura 2000 sites, proposed Natural Heritage Areas, and locally important biodiversity sites, as well as through green infrastructure, biodiversity and landscape policies.

The safeguarding of designated and protected species is an integral part of the planning, environmental and operational functions of SDCC, and is carried out in accordance with national and EU legislation, including the Planning and Development Act 2000 & 2024 (as amended), the EU Habitats and Birds Directives, and associated Regulations. Protected species within the County include species listed under the EU Habitats and Birds Directives and the Wildlife Acts, such as certain mammals, birds, bats and plant species.

In terms of planning and development management, we require appropriate ecological assessment, including screening for Appropriate Assessment and, where necessary, Natura Impact Statements, ecological reports and species-specific surveys, to be submitted in support of development proposals. Planning decisions are made having regard to these assessments, and conditions are imposed where required to protect habitats and species, including requirements for mitigation, monitoring and timing of works.

Outside the planning process, we undertake and support a range of biodiversity and conservation measures, including habitat management on Council-owned lands, the implementation of

Biodiversity Action Plans, collaboration with the National Parks and Wildlife Service, and public awareness and community biodiversity initiatives. Furthermore, we are actively engaged in the protection and management of the Light-bellied Brent Goose through participation in the All-Dublin Light-bellied Brent Geese Strategy Group, working alongside the other Dublin local authorities, the National Parks and Wildlife Service and the OPW. The Light-bellied Brent Goose is a protected species under the EU Birds Directive and the Irish Wildlife Acts,

In summary, while we do not maintain the single definitive list of all protected species within the County, protection is delivered through a combination of statutory planning controls, environmental assessment, policy objectives, land management practices and inter-agency cooperation, all aimed at safeguarding biodiversity, protected and threatened species in South Dublin County.

**Q31/0326 Councillor F. Timmons**

To ask the Chief Executive for a detailed report on what efforts SDCC have made with transport authorities to relay the lived experiences of residents in regard to public transport issues prior to granting further planning permission?

**REPLY:**

The Planning and Transport Section engages regularly with the external transport stakeholders on matters relating to public transport services for our existing communities and our future development areas. This engagement includes sharing the lived experiences of residents, as expressed through public queries and elected members.

**Member and Public Engagement**

Most recently and arising directly from issues raised by residents and elected members, the Council has requested members to submit queries relating to existing and proposed bus services. A briefing meeting between the NTA and elected members will be convened shortly to address these concerns directly and ensure that local experience continues to inform service planning.

**Bus Route Improvements:**

The Transport team meet regularly with the NTA bus service management team and raise and discuss actions on any current bus service issues raised by the public and the elected members. In recent times, both the NTA and SDCC have been working and delivering orbital bus service improvements to serve the new

development areas of Adamstown, Clonburris and Newcastle. These services include the C-spine network namely the C1, C2 serving Adamstown and Lucan and W6 service serving Celbridge to Tallaght. Also, improvements have been made to the F1-Tallaght to City centre route. Improvements have also been made to the F2 - Wellington Lane to city centre bus route

### **Tallaght Bus Layover:**

We are currently working with the NTA on the delivery of a bus layover for Tallaght bus services. The bus layover will help with the co-ordination of the Tallaght Bus Services in terms of facilitating increased bus route frequency and bus arrival time reliability. Planning has been granted for the bus layover. Construction of the Bus layover is planned to commence in May 2026.

### **Bus Stop Enhancements:**

On foot of customer and elected member requests, bus stop enhancement works are being delivered throughout the County. These improvements include accessibility improvement at existing bus stops, the installation of new bus stops and bus shelters being installed at prioritised locations. The Transport team and the NTA are continuing to deliver a multi-annual programme of bus stop enhancements in the County to improve the bus commuter experience.

### **Future Planned Development and Bus Services:**

In the context of future development, the Transport team has worked closely with the NTA to facilitate the delivery of public transport services aligned with the build-out of strategic growth areas, including the introduction of the C1 and C2 services to support Adamstown SDZ. We continue to work to influence the NTA on planning for public transport provision to serve the development of Clonburris SDZ.

More broadly, the Planning and Transport teams are engaging with the relevant stakeholder to progress a SDCC West Transport Plan, which will examine future growth areas and identify the public transport infrastructure and services required to support sustainable development.

### **Strategic Infrastructure Delivery:**

Dart+ Southwest: Planning permission has been granted for the Dart+ Southwest rail improvement scheme. SDCC has recently met with

larnród Éireann to discuss concerns regarding delays to the delivery timeline.

Core Bus Corridor: Construction of the Liffey Valley to City Centre Core Bus Corridor commenced in December 2025. The Transport team is leading on substantial SDCC input to finalise the design and construction aspects of this scheme.

**H7/0326**

**DECLARATION OF ROADS TO BE MADE PUBLIC ROADS**

*It was **NOTED** that there was no business under this Heading.*

**H8/0326**

**PROPOSED DISPOSAL OF PROPERTIES/SITES - FOR APPROVAL**

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

**(a) Proposed Disposal of fee simple in 60 Homelawn Road, Tallaght, Dublin 24**

HI 8 (a)(ii) Map - 60 Homelawn Road, Tallaght, Dublin 24

The following have applied, in accordance with the provisions of the Landlord and Tenant (Ground Rent) (No 2) Act, to acquire the fee simple in the property

| ADDRESS                               | LESSEE(S)                   | PURCHASE PRICE |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|
| 60 Homelawn Road, Tallaght, Dublin 24 | Eamon Moore and Maria Quinn | €878.03        |

It is proposed, in accordance with the provisions of the landlord and Tenant (Ground Rents) (No 2) Act, 1978 and subject to the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, to dispose of the fee simple in the site listed above.

The report was **NOTED** and it was proposed by Councillor A. Smyth, seconded by Councillor R. McMahon and **RESOLVED**:

“That the disposal of fee simple in **60** Homelawn Road, Tallaght, Dublin 24 be **ADOPTED** and **APPROVED**.”

**(b) Proposed Disposal of fee simple in 104 Sarsfield Park, Lucan, Co Dublin**

### HI 8 (b)(ii) Map - 104 Sarsfield Park, Lucan, Co Dublin

The following have applied, in accordance with the provisions of the Landlord and Tenant (Ground Rent) (No 2) Act, to acquire the fee simple in the property

| ADDRESS                                  | LESSEE(S)   | PURCHASE PRICE |
|--|---|----------------|
| 104 Sarsfield Park,<br>Lucan, Co. Dublin | Aileen Dempsey,<br>Deborah Dempsey<br>Anthony Dempsey | €42.90         |

It is proposed, in accordance with the provisions of the landlord and Tenant (Ground Rents) (No 2) Act, 1978 and subject to the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, to dispose of the fee simple in the site listed above.

The report was **NOTED** and it was proposed by Councillor P. Kearns, seconded by Councillor L. O'Toole and **RESOLVED:**

“That the disposal of fee simple in 104 Sarsfield Park, Lucan, Co Dublin be **ADOPTED** and **APPROVED.**”

### **H9/0326** **CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT - FOR NOTING**

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

HI 9 (a) Chief Executive's Report - March 2026

HI 9 (b) Statistics Report - February 2026

HI 9 (c) Finance Report

Councillor R. McMahon congratulated the Council, Chief Executive and Directors on winning Council of the year 6 months ago and also last week in LAMA.

*The reports were NOTED*

### **H11/0326** **CLONDALKIN LOCAL PLANNING FRAMEWORK (VARIATION TO COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN) - FOR APPROVAL**

The following report by the Chief Executive, which had been circulated, was presented by Ms. H. Craigie, Senior Planner and was **CONSIDERED.**

[HI 11 \(a\) Material Alterations Process Overview](#)

[HI 11 \(b\) CE Report on submissions to the Material Alterations to Variation no. 1 Clondalkin Local Planning Framework](#)

[HI 11 \(c\) Presentation on CE Report on the Submissions to the proposed Material Alterations to the Clondalkin LPF \(Variation No.1 of the CDP\)](#)

[HI 11 \(d\) Environmental Reports and Determinations for the Material Amendments](#)

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillor T. Gilligan, F. Timmons, E. O’Broin, L. De Courcy, S. O’Hara and W. Carey.

Queries were raised regarding traffic congestion, timeline, enterprise, all weather pitches, and transport movements.

Ms. H. Craigie, Senior Planner, responded to the members queries

It was proposed by Councillor F. Timmons, seconded by Councillor E. O’Broin and **AGREED:**

In accordance with Section 13 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, and having considered the Proposed Material Alterations to the Proposed Variation to the County Development Plan 2022-2028 (the Clondalkin Local Planning Framework) and the report of the Chief Executive in accordance with Section 13, and having regard to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area, this Council hereby resolves to make the Proposed Variation with Material Alterations in accordance with the Chief Executive’s report.

## **H12/0326 CLIMATE ACTION PLAN ANNUAL REPORT AND CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLAN 2026 IMPLEMENTATION PLAN – FOR NOTING**

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 12 \(a\) Climate Action Plan Annual Report 2025](#)

[HI 12 \(b\) CAP Implementation Plan 2026](#)

[HI 12 \(c\) Climate Action Progress 2025 Presentation](#)

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors A. Edge, F. Timmons, P. Holohan, E. O’Broin, R. McMahon, J. Spear, M. Johansson, L. O’Toole and P. Kearns.

Queries were raised regarding biodiversity, tree planting, hedge removal, CO2, LED roll out, gullies, flood alleviation, solar bins, retrofitting and data centres.

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

*The report was NOTED*

**H13/0326 REPORT FROM LOCAL COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP - 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 13 Report of the South Dublin Local Community Safety Partnership meeting on the 20th February 2026

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors W. Carey, J. Tuffy, H. Farrell and E. O’Broin.

Mr. C. Ward, Chief Executive, responded to the members queries.

*The report was NOTED*

**H14/0326 COMMUNITY GRANTS – 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**.

**REPORT:**

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 **3** grants totalling **€16,881.00** were approved for **3** local groups summarised as follows:

| <b>Category</b>          | <b>No:</b> | <b>Amount</b>     |
|--------------------------|------------|-------------------|
| Community Events Funding | 3          | €16,881.00        |
| <b>Total</b>             | <b>3</b>   | <b>€16,881.00</b> |

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

| <b>Name Of Group</b>              | <b>Funding Category Applied For</b> | <b>Sub-Category of Grant</b>           | <b>Amount</b>     |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|-------------------|
| St Mary's GFC                     | Community Events Funding            | St. Patrick's Day Parade / Celebration | €5,881.00         |
| Palmerstown Meitheal Tidy Towns   | Community Events Funding            | St. Patrick's Day Parade / Celebration | €1,000.00         |
| Clondalkin St Patricks Day Parade | Community Events Funding            | St. Patrick's Day Parade / Celebration | €10,000.00        |
| <b>Total</b>                      |                                     |  | <b>€16,881.00</b> |

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors E. Ó Broin and L. O'Toole.

Queries were raised regarding Saint Brigids Day, Saint Patricks Day and applications.

Ms. E. Leech, Director of Housing, responded to the members queries.

*The report was **NOTED***

**C1/0326**

**REPLIES, ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS & CORRESPONDENCE**

**Replies**

- [\(a\) A Reply to M7 0226 from Minister for Education Hildegarde Naughton](#)
- [\(a\) Correspondence received from Clare County Council](#)
- [\(b\) Correspondence received from Wicklow County Council](#)
- [\(c\) Correspondence received from Wexford County Council](#)
- [\(d\) Correspondence received from Department of Children, Disability and Equality](#)
- [\(e\) Correspondence received from Galway County Council](#)

*The correspondence was **NOTED**.*

### **Emergency Motion**

**SM1/0326** In accordance with the provisions of Section 15 (5) of Standing Orders the Mayor, Councillor P. Kearns, proposed and the Members **AGREED** to deal with an Emergency Motion in the names of Councillors J. Tuffy, C. Brady, S. Barnes, V. Casserly, B. Lawlor, D. McManus, Baby Pereppadan, Britto Pereppadan, Y. Collins, A. Symth, L. Dunne, N. Fennell, R. McMahon, P. Cosgrave, K. Keane, J. Spear, E. Ó Broin, J. Sinnott, M. Duff, L. De Courcy, H. Farrell, A. Hayes and F. Timmons

"That this Council calls on the Minister for Defence to reappraise plans by the Civil Defence Branch to sell the 2 Hagglund vehicles which are stationed by Dublin Civil Defence in Belgard in South Dublin County. These Hagglunds have been called upon by Civil Defence and local authorities nationwide for accessing places that other vehicles and emergency services have not been able to access, and this Council notes that these vehicles are uniquely capable of travelling over all terrains and responding as back up emergency vehicles during extreme weather and other situations."

*The motion was **AGREED**.*

### **M1/0326 Storm Chandra Monitoring of River Levels**

The motion **FELL** as Councillor L. Dunne was not present at the meeting.

That this Council conduct investigations into flooding during Storm Chandra to include how water levels in waterways were monitored during recent heavy rainfalls in advance of the storm, how high-water levels/water overflow in private lands were monitored and the resources we had in place to deal with flash flooding.

**M2/0326**

**As I Am partnership**

It was proposed by Councillor F. Timmons, seconded by Councillor D. Donnelly.

That this Council calls on SDCC to partner with AsIAm, Ireland's Autism Charity, and relevant stakeholders already engaged in Autism-Friendly Villages initiatives, with a view to achieving recognition as an Autism-Friendly County, and that, as an initial step, a working group be established to progress this objective.

**REPORT:**

South Dublin County Council continues to progress a coordinated, organisation-wide approach to improving accessibility and inclusion for autistic and neurodivergent people across the county. While the Council does not currently have the capacity to establish a dedicated Autism-Friendly County working group, autism- and neurodiversity-inclusive practice is being embedded across Council services, facilities and community programmes as part of mainstream service delivery.

Governance arrangements to support this work are being strengthened through the establishment of a Disability Advisory Board, with expressions of interest to issue shortly. The Board will provide advice and feedback to inform Council policy, planning and service delivery, ensuring that lived experience plays a central role in shaping accessible and inclusive outcomes.

The Equality Office is leading a number of strategic initiatives to improve the accessibility of Council services and buildings. This includes progressing a Multi-Party Framework with Dublin City Council to deliver accessibility audits across towns and villages, using a Universal Design approach that explicitly considers the needs of neurodivergent people. In parallel, work is ongoing towards Autism-Friendly Service Provider accreditation for County Hall. A sensory environmental assessment was completed in 2025, informing practical improvements including the development of sensory maps and Visual Guides for key public-facing areas.

Recognising the importance of staff capacity in delivering inclusive services, the Council has prioritised autism-inclusive training for front-facing staff. A total of 132 staff members in County Hall and Clondalkin Civic Offices have been nominated to participate in specialist training during 2026, supporting improved understanding, inclusive communication and positive customer engagement.

At community level, the Council continues to support Autism-Friendly Towns through its Community Development programme. Clondalkin has achieved Autism-Friendly Town accreditation, and support is ongoing for Involve Autism in Templeogue as they progress towards accreditation. Autism-inclusive measures are also being integrated into major civic events, including the provision of dedicated relaxed spaces at the 2026 St Patrick's Day Parade in Tallaght.

The Council has implemented a countywide programme to improve accessibility in public spaces through the rollout of communication boards in parks, play spaces and community centres. These supports are now embedded as a standard requirement for all new and upgraded play spaces under the Play Policy, with further locations being identified on an ongoing basis.

SDCC Libraries continue to play a central role in advancing autism- and neurodiversity-inclusive public spaces. Inclusive practices are embedded across library services and programmes, including sensory-friendly environments, communication supports, outreach initiatives and inclusive cultural and learning programmes. In 2025, libraries delivered 487 neurodiverse-inclusive events, reflecting a sustained and strategic approach to accessibility.

Through Active South Dublin, the Council also supports autism-inclusive participation in sport and physical activity, including adapted cycling, supported fitness programmes, autism-specific summer camps and inclusive events delivered as part of Disability in Sport Week.

Overall, through a whole-of-organisation approach spanning governance, service design, staff training, community development, public realm improvements, libraries, events and sport, South Dublin County Council is embedding autism-friendly and neurodiversity-inclusive practices across its operations. This approach demonstrates clear progress to date and provides a strong foundation for continued development as capacity and resources allow.

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors F. Timmons, V. Casserly, R. Mannion and L. McCrave

Ms. B. Shannon, Acting Senior Executive Officer, responded to the members queries.

*The motion was **AGREED***

M3/0326

**Localised early warning flood alerting system**

It was proposed by Councillor C. Brady, seconded by Councillor S. O'Hara.

That this Council calls on the Chief Executive to explore the feasibility of developing a localised early warning flood system to help residents and emergency crews prepare for severe weather events, utilising existing data sources, exploiting AI technology to model scenarios, and collaborating with relevant agencies and potentially third level institutions such as TU Dublin Tallaght

**REPORT:**

Developing localised flood prediction systems presents considerable challenges. These challenges arise due to the varying sizes of catchment areas, multiple factors influencing flood mechanisms and flow paths, and the unpredictable rate of climate change impacts. Accurate modelling requires substantial data to minimise extrapolation. Flash floods, in particular, are difficult to forecast because of time constraints.

Social factors also play a critical role. If the public perceives forecasts as frequently inaccurate—for instance, when predicted flooding does not materialise in the location or at the scale anticipated—the effectiveness of the system can quickly diminish. This parallels the public perception of yellow rainfall warnings. Furthermore, unclear guidance on individual actions may cause anxiety among recipients, highlighting the need for careful design and implementation of such systems.

Currently, Met Éireann operates a National Flood Forecasting and Warning Service, which issues green, yellow, and red alerts for national and large river catchments. The European Flood Advisory Service (EFAS) also provides flood forecasting probability to national and local authorities across Europe. These early warning systems enable authorities to prepare for impending flooding events.

Met Éireann has announced ongoing work to develop a more localised weather warning system, set to replace county-wide alerts by the end of the year. This new system aims to deliver more targeted emergency preparedness, focusing on those most at risk. Local Authorities and the National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management will contribute to the development of this approach.

The Council intends to engage with key stakeholders, including Met Éireann and academic institutions, to enhance flood risk management. For example, Met Éireann's new master programme in

AI with meteorology at UCD includes aspects of flood forecasting, creating opportunities for collaboration and innovation in this field.

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors P. Holohan, E. O’Broin, W. Carey, L. McCrave and L. O’Toole.

Queries were raised regarding flooding, text alert system, ponding and water storage.

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

*The motion was **AGREED**.*

#### **M4/0326 Review of Differential Rent Scheme 2026**

It was proposed by Councillor W. Carey, seconded by Councillor N. Whelan

That this council calls upon the manager to review the current criteria set out for assessing rents with a view to removing the additional 10% charge placed upon additional income within households that was introduced in the 2020 budget.

#### **REPORT:**

As outlined during the 2026 budget discussions, a full review of the Differential Rent Scheme is already underway. This review is necessary to ensure that the scheme remains financially sustainable while continuing to support the long-term maintenance, management, and upgrading of our housing stock.

A detailed report on the progress of this review was presented to the Housing Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) at its February 2026 meeting. The review is guided by a number of key objectives, including:

- Ensuring the rent scheme is fair, equitable, and protective of vulnerable tenancies
- Providing a consistent and proportionate rent-charging structure
- Securing sufficient income to sustainably meet both current and future housing maintenance and improvement needs
- Maximising administrative simplicity and efficiency for both tenants and the council

Work on the review is ongoing, and the outcome, including any proposed revisions to the treatment of additional household income will be brought forward to the next meeting of the Housing SPC, scheduled for May 2026.

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors M. Johansson, J. Spear, N. Fennell, B. Lawlor, G. Moore, W. Carey and K. Keane.

Queries were raised regarding consultation, the elderly and HAP.

Ms. E. Leech, Director of Housing responded to the members queries.

**A ROLL CALL VOTE** on the motion was called for in the names of Councillors N. Fennell, K. Keane and J. Spear the result of which are as follows:

**FOR 15 (FIFTEEN)**

**Councillors W. Carey, P. Cosgrave, D. Donnelly, N. Fennell, P. Holohan, M. Johansson, K. Keane, R. Mannion, G. Moore, E. Ó Broin, D. Richardson, J. Sinnott, J. Spear, F. Timmons and N. Whelan.**

**AGAINST 16 (SIXTEEN)**

**Councillors S. Barnes, C. Brady, V. Casserly, Y. Collins, H. Farrell, T. Gilligan, A. Hayes, P. Kearns, B. Lawlor, L. McCrave, T. McDonald, R. McMahan, S. O'Hara, L. O'Toole, Baby Pereppadan and A. Smyth.**

**ABSTAIN 1 (ONE)**

**Councillor L. De Courcy.**

*As a result of the ROLL CALL VOTE the motion FELL.*

**M5/0326 Local Government Fund**

It was proposed by Councillor L. O'Toole, seconded by Councillor F. Timmons and **MOVED WITHOUT DEBATE.**

That this Council calls on the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to publish an annual report on the use of Local Property Tax (LPT), clearly outlining allocation through the Local Government Fund, the proportion retained locally versus redistributed nationally, and a high-level breakdown of the services and expenditure supported; the report should be presented in plain English, supported by visual summaries, and published online in a single, easily accessible location to enhance transparency and public understanding.

**REPORT:**

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

**M6/0326**    **Tidy Towns Insurance**

It was proposed by Councillor Y. Collins, seconded by Councillor A. Smyth.

That this Council writes to IPB Insurance, the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, and the County and City Management Association (CCMA) requesting that the existing IPB public liability insurance facility for Tidy Towns groups be expanded to include Residents' Associations.

**REPORT:**

If this motion is passed, letters will be issued to IPB Insurance, the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, and the CCMA. The responses, when received, will be circulated to the Members.

Councillor Ronan McMahon informed the Mayor that he had an interest in IPB Insurance, by virtue of him being a director. His interest was noted and it was agreed that Councillor McMahon would not participate in any debate or vote on the motion but would not be required to leave the chamber.

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors P. Cosgrave, P. Kearns, L. McCrave and H. Farrell showing their support.

*The motion was **AGREED**.*

The meeting ended at 18:13