

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

Minutes of South Dublin County Council January 2026 County Council  
Meeting held on Monday 12 January 2026

**PRESENT**

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

**OFFICIALS PRESENT**

Chief Executive	C. Ward.
Directors	J. Frehill, E. Burke, T. Walsh, E. Leech, L. Maxwell, R. FitzGerald, T. Kavanagh
County Architect	C. Harte
Senior Executive Officers	B. Shannon, P. Fusco
Communications Manager	D. Healy
Financial Management Accountant	A. O'Melia
Administrative Officer	M. Reilly
Staff Officer	P. Mens
Assistant Staff Officer	L. Farrell

The Deputy Mayor, Councillor T. Gilligan, presided

Apologies were received from Councillors P. Kearns, B. Lawlor, and E. Ó Broin.

## **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.

### **H1/0126      CONFIRMATION AND REAFFIRMATION OF MINUTES - FOR APPROVAL**

Minutes of the December Council Meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2025, and Special Council Meeting held on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2025, which have been circulated were submitted and **APPROVED** as a true record and signed in the proposition of Councillor T. Gilligan and seconded by Councillor D. McManus and the members **AGREED**.

(a) Minutes for the December 2025 Council Meeting

(b) Minutes for the Special Meeting of the Council Meeting 11

December 2025

**H2/0126 REPORTS OF AREA COMMITTEES**

**Clondalkin, Newcastle, Rathcoole, Saggart and Brittas Area Committee**

**Report of Clondalkin, Newcastle, Rathcoole, Saggart & Brittas Area Committee meeting held on 11 October 2024**

For information purposes only, the following is an extract from Minutes / Report of the October 2024 Clondalkin, Newcastle, Rathcoole Saggart and Brittas Area Committee relating to **Motion 11 Fitzmaurice Road, Rathcoole Tree Protection Order.**

**"C/331/24 – M11 Item ID:84349 – Fitzmaurice Road, Rathcoole Tree Protection Order.**

Proposed by Councillor F. Timmons and seconded by Councillor S. O’Hara.

**That this Area Committee supports the establishment of a Tree Protection Order on the Beech Wood and associated trees at Fitzmaurice Road, Rathcoole, in recognition of its iconic status, amenity value and contribution to the landscape of Rathcoole Village and asks the Chief Executive to initiate the process before the end of 2024.**

The following report by the Chief Executive which had been circulated was **READ:**

*Beechwood Lawns, located south of Fitzmaurice Road in Rathcoole, have been taken in charge since 1977 and the Council maintains the lands in question. Protection and management of all existing trees on Council is carried out in accordance with the Living with Trees SDCC Tree Management Policy 2021 -2026.*

*The Living with Trees SDCC Tree Management Policy 2021 -2026 states that trees contribute greatly to visual amenity by creating a setting for buildings and softening and greening streetscapes in built-up areas and by adding significant visual interest in more rural areas.*

*The South Dublin County Development Plan 2022 – 2028 and the Living with Trees SDCC Tree Management Policy 2021 - 2026 both state and emphasis the value of trees. The Development Plan, which sets the policy context for the assessment of planning applications, states that trees and landscaping are important for climate amelioration and maintaining a healthy environment. The planting of*

*trees is one of the most cost-effective methods of carbon capture and storage. Trees and the retention of mature trees can be an asset to a new development.*

*Further to the value of trees being comprehensively integrated into the Living with Trees and the Development Plan 2022 -2028, the Corporate Plan and the Climate Action Plan have objectives and actions in relation to protection of trees.*

*Section 205 is the relevant provision of the Planning and Development Act (as amended) for a TPO. The following extracts are considered relevant in the context of the question:*

*Section 205.—(1) If it appears to the planning authority that it is expedient, in the interests of amenity or the environment, to make provision for the preservation of any tree, trees, group of trees or woodlands, it may, for that purpose and for stated reasons, make an order with respect to any such tree, trees, group of trees or woodlands as may be specified in the order.*

*(2) Without prejudice to the generality of subsection (1), an order under this section may—*

*(a) prohibit (subject to any conditions or exemptions for which provision may be made by the order) the cutting down, topping, lopping or wilful destruction of trees, and*

*(b) require the owner and occupier of the land affected by the order to enter into an agreement with the planning authority to ensure the proper management of any trees, group of trees or woodlands (including the replanting of trees), subject to the planning authority providing assistance, including financial assistance, towards such management as may be agreed.*

*Section 205(10) outlines that the any person who contravenes an order shall be guilty of an offence.*

*Section 205 (11) outlines some of the limitations of a TPO, namely that no such order shall apply to the cutting down, topping or lopping of trees which are dying or dead or have become dangerous, or the cutting down, topping or lopping of any trees in compliance with any obligation imposed by or under any enactment or so far as may be necessary for the prevention or abatement of a nuisance or hazard.*

*Section 205 of the Act states that ‘If it appears to the planning authority that it is expedient, in the interests of amenity or the environment, to make provision for the preservation of any tree, trees, group of trees or woodlands, it may, for that purpose and for stated*

*reasons, make an order with respect to any such tree, trees, group of trees or woodlands as may be specified in the order.'*

*The term expedient is not defined in the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). The Planning Authority considers that practical and necessary is a reasonable interpretation of the term expedient.*

*As outlined above, the management and protection of trees on potential development sites and on Council owned lands is strongly outlined in the Living with Tree SDCC Tree Management Policy 2021 - 2026 and the County Development Plan. The protection of all existing trees in the County on potential development sites is carried out through the assessment of planning proposals (planning applications, Part 10s and Part 8s). Protection and management of all existing trees on Council lands in the public realm will be carried in accordance with the Living with Trees SDCC Tree Management Policy 2021 -2026.*

*In conclusion, given the strong recognition of the value of trees in the Living with Trees Management Policy, Corporate Plan, Climate Action Plan and the Development Plan, the Planning Authority considers that the proposed TPO is not necessary or practical at this time and concludes that the proposed TPOs are not expedient in the context of Section 205 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).*

*In addition, it is considered that, whilst the value of the trees in the proposed TPO is acknowledged, reasons for the initiation of TPOs on this site are not apparent. It is noted that Section 205 requires stated reasons for the purpose of a TPO. **END OF REPORT TO ACM***

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors F. Timmons, W. Carey, T. Gilligan, E. Ó Broin and L. De Courcy.

Ms. Hazel Craigie, Senior Planner and Mr. David Fennell, Senior Executive Parks Superintendent responded to the members queries.

Councillor F. Timmons called for, and the Members **AGREED** to a roll call vote on the managers' report of which was as follows:

IN FAVOUR: 0 (ZERO)

AGAINST: 6 (SIX) Councillors D. Adelaide, W. Carey, L. De Courcy, E. Ó Broin, S. O'Hara and F. Timmons

ABSTAIN: 1 (ONE) Councillor T. Gilligan

The motion was agreed, and the managers' report was noted". **END OF EXTRACT OF MINUTES / REPORT OF OCTOBER 2024 ACM**

*The report was **NOTED**.*

**H3/0126**     **STANDING COMMITTEES ORGANISATION, PROCEDURE & FINANCE**  
**(NO BUSINESS)**

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

**H4/0126**     **STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEES**  
**(NO BUSINESS)**

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

**H5/0126**     **REPORTS REQUESTED BY AREA COMMITTEES - FOR NOTING**  
**(NO BUSINESS)**

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

**QUESTIONS**

It was proposed by Councillor T. Gilligan and seconded by Councillor D. McManus and **RESOLVED**:

**“That pursuant to Standing Order No. 22, Questions numbered Q1 – Q33 be ADOPTED and APPROVED”**

**Q1/0126**     **Councillor D. Adelaide**

To ask the Chief Executive to advise whether any circulars, directives, or instructions have been issued by central government regarding the ring-fencing of housing maintenance expenditure from income generated through council rents, and to provide details of any such guidance.

**REPLY:**

Under the new National Housing Plan- Delivering Homes, Building Communities 2025-30, policy objective 6.13-Fair and Equitable Social Housing Rents System it states that:

*'The plan builds on work progressed under Housing for All, the work of the Housing Commission and the AHB Strategic Forum and it outlines that the Government will undertake a comprehensive review of the differential rents system in local authorities. A key element of any future framework is ensuring that similar households with*

*comparable financial means pay the same amount of rent for their social home, regardless of who their social housing landlord is, or in which local authority area they are located. Government recognises the significant role that housing rents income plays in the structure of social housing financing, where rents paid by social housing tenants are utilised to contribute to the maintenance and improvement of their homes, and to sustaining the communities in which they live'.*

SDCC manages over 10,500 homes under various management arrangements. Currently each local authority has autonomy in designing its Differential Rent Scheme, which determines how rents are set for social housing tenants. The decision to set the differential rent is an executive function. It requires strategic oversight to ensure that rent policies are equitable, transparent, and sufficient to support the long-term upkeep of social housing assets, safeguarding both tenant welfare and the integrity of our housing portfolio. In recent years, the council has faced significant increased expenditure related to the maintenance and management of its housing stock. Ensuring that rental income is sufficient to meet these costs is essential for the sustainability of our housing services.

Over the last five years, our housing stock has increased and an extensive stock condition survey programme has been commissioned with over 1900 homes surveyed in 2025. The results of this survey will inform the future development of our planned maintenance /energy efficiency programmes, prioritising upgrades such as windows, kitchens, bathrooms, electrical and heating systems. These improvements will require significant additional investment to enhance the quality of homes for our tenants.

We will review the differential rent scheme to ensure appropriate funding for the level of investment required for works arising from stock condition surveys. Recent independent analysis of local authority differential rent schemes shows significant variance between rents in South Dublin and elsewhere nationally for households with the same incomes. We will balance the need for investment in maintaining and improving our housing stock with affordability considerations for tenants and full reports on both stock condition surveys and differential rent analysis will be presented to the Housing Strategic Policy Committee in 2026.

We are also annually required to outline to DHLGH the projected income from housing rents in our adopted revenue budget and the proposed percentage of rental income to be spent on the management and maintenance of our housing stock as part of returns relating to capital receipts from the sale of existing social housing

stock to tenants and how such income may be used for improvement works to social housing stock, subject to approval by the DHLGH on the programme of such works.

**Q2/0126** **Councillor D. Adelaide**

To ask the Chief Executive for a complete timeline of engagement on changes to the differential rents scheme, including details of what format the council will be engage with members through an SPC, a working group or some other means.

**REPLY:**

'An Overview of all Local Authorities Differential Rent Schemes and Rent Reviews' is due to be published imminently by the Value for Money Unit, Local Government Audit Service. This report is nearing completion and will provide a strong evidential basis for strategic adjustment of our differential rent scheme to address inequities in the current rent scheme along with ensuring that sufficient funding is in place to meet future social housing management and maintenance costs.

Each local authority currently has autonomy in determining how social housing rents are set through a differential rent scheme which is a function of the council's executive. We are very conscious that any adjustments to the scheme must first and foremost be equitable and affordable for our tenants, while also being sufficient to meet all of the costs involved in managing, maintaining and upgrading our social homes into the future. Accordingly, in 2026 we will present our Housing Stock Investment Programme to the Housing Strategic Policy Committee for discussion along with the analysis supporting a review of the current differential rent scheme to ensure long-term sustainable funding for the management and maintenance our housing stock.

**Q3/0126** **Councillor C. Brady**

To ask the Chief Executive to report on the number of planning permission exemptions requested to convert above ground-floor premises and former pubs into residential units, by Local Electoral Area, presented in tabular format by year for the past five years, and to make a statement on this matter.

**REPLY:**

The **Planning and Development (Amendment) (No.2) Regulations 2018 - S.I. No. 30 of 2018** - which came into operation on 8 February 2018, provided for an exemption from the requirement to obtain planning permission in respect of the change of use of certain vacant

commercial premises, including vacant areas above ground floor premises, to residential use. The regulations are primarily aimed at facilitating the productive re-use of qualifying vacant commercial buildings as homes, while also facilitating urban renewal and the bringing on stream of increased housing supply.

The **Planning and Development (Exempted Development (Act of 2000)) Regulations 2025 (S.I. 648 of 2025)** extends to **31 December 2028** the exemption given by S.I. 30 of 2018.

The requirements as set out in earlier when the exemption was introduced and first extended remain in place, and include:

- In order to avail of the exemptions being provided for, the structure, or part of the structure, which is the subject of the change of use must have been vacant for at least 2 years immediately prior to the commencement of the relevant works, with such works being required to be completed by 31 December 2028.
- The classes of use that qualify under the 2018 and 2022 change of use exempted development provisions – i.e. Classes 1, 2, 3 and 6 and 12 – as outlined in Part 4 of Schedule 2 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended, remains unchanged.
- Compliance with the conditions and limitations that applied to the 2018 exempted development provisions, as outlined in previous Circular Letter PL 01/2018, continue to apply under these regulations:
  1. Development must not contravene a condition attached to a permission issued under the Act, including any condition specifying the permitted use of the building concerned.
  2. Notification Requirement - a planning authority must be notified in writing of the details of the development at least 2 weeks prior to the commencement of the proposed change of use,

No such notifications to convert above ground-floor premises and former pubs into residential units were received in the last five years.

**Q4/0126**

**Councillor C. Brady**

To ask the Chief Executive to report on the number of grants approved under each of the following schemes – the Vacant Property Grant, the Repair and Leasing Scheme, and the Derelict Property Grant – presented in tabular format by year since their introduction.

**REPLY:**

The Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant is a payment available if you are turning a vacant house or building into your principal private

residence. A grant of up to €50,000 is available. If the refurbishment costs exceed the standard grant of up to €50,000, a top-up grant amount of up to €20,000 is available. To get this top-up grant, you must confirm that the property is derelict. This means that the property is structurally unsound and dangerous. The maximum grant available for a derelict property is therefore €70,000. Applicants must submit an independent report prepared by a qualified professional, along with the application confirming that the property is derelict.

<b>Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant</b>				
<b>Year</b>	<b>No. of applications received</b>	<b>Approved</b>	<b>Approved including top-up grant</b>	<b>Withdrawn/ Declined</b>
<b>2022</b>	7	6	1	0
<b>2023</b>	58	45	3	10
<b>2024</b>	85	67	7	11
<b>2025</b>	119	101	7	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>269</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>31</b>

See table below for Repair and Lease Scheme application numbers:

<b>Repair and Lease Scheme</b>			
<b>Year</b>	<b>No. of Applications received</b>	<b>Approved</b>	
<b>2022</b>		0	0
<b>2023</b>		1	1
<b>2024</b>		0	0
<b>2025</b>		4	1*
<b>Total</b>		<b>5</b>	<b>1*</b>

\* Application has been approved pending an inspection and an agreed schedule of works

Q5/0126

**Councillor C. Brady**

To ask the Chief Executive what initiatives are currently in place across the county to encourage residents to volunteer, and to make a statement on the matter.

**REPLY:**

South Dublin County Council recognises the vital role volunteers play in strengthening our communities and is committed to supporting and expanding opportunities for residents to get involved in meaningful volunteer work.

We support a wide range of local programmes and events that encourage volunteering, and we continue to work closely with statutory and voluntary organisations and agencies across the county on various projects, initiatives, campaigns, and workshops.

In particular, the Council actively supports and funds both South Dublin Volunteer Centre and the Public Participation Network, both of which play key roles in promoting and supporting volunteerism in the county.

**South Dublin Volunteer Centre** recruits, places, and trains volunteers, and helps local organisations with volunteer management. The Council is represented on its board and provides financial support for its operations.

**South Dublin Public Participation Network** is an independent umbrella organisation and network that provides a voice for all community and voluntary, environmental and social inclusion groups throughout the county. SDCC supports the PPN by providing funding, administrative infrastructure, practical resources, governance assistance, and ongoing engagement, while upholding the PPN's independence as a representative voice for communities in South Dublin County.

Council events such as **Pride of Place**, the **Endeavour Awards** and the **Mayor's Awards** have provided important recognition, celebration and promotion of the work of volunteers throughout the county.

We also provide ongoing **community grants** and other supports to voluntary groups working with older people, environmental groups, youth organisations, sports clubs, festival committees, tidy towns groups, and many other volunteer-led activities.

The Council is dedicated to supporting community development, social inclusion, and sports and recreation throughout the county,

ensuring that all residents have the opportunity to belong, be included, and participate.

**Q6/0126**

**Councillor Y. Collins**

To ask the Chief Executive to set out in tabular form, by LEA, details of available age friendly housing and right sizing property schemes, together with details of any proposals for such schemes going forward.

**REPLY:**

The table below provides the number of local authority age friendly homes by electoral area:

<b>Electoral area</b>	<b>Number</b>
Clondalkin	74
Firehouse-Bohernabreena	21
Lucan	54
Palmerstown-Fonthill	85
Rathfarnham-Templeogue	56
Tallaght Central	94
Tallaght South	25
<b>Total</b>	<b>409</b>

In addition, the council has supported Approved Housing Bodies to deliver age friendly housing at:

<b>Electoral Area</b>	<b>Number</b>
Tallaght Central-Fernwood/Maplewood	40
Tallaght Central-The Weir	81
Clondalkin- Sallymills	87
<b>Total</b>	<b>208</b>

The following age-friendly developments are either currently on-site or in planning with indicative timelines for delivery:

<b>Age-Friendly Developments</b>					
<b>Local Electoral Area</b>	<b>Development</b>	<b>Number of Units</b>	<b>Delivery Type</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>EDD</b>
Clondalkin	Alpine Heights	13	SDCC Build	Construction	Q3.2026
Clondalkin	Deansrath / Melrose	27	SDCC Build	Construction	Q4.2026
Clondalkin	Gordon Park	6	AHB Delivery	Construction	Q1.2026
Clondalkin	Tay Lane, Rathcoole	54	AHB Delivery	Planning Granted	Q4.2027
Clondalkin	Clonburriss Site 4	3	SDCC Build	Planning Application	Q4.2029
Clondalkin	Rathcoole Lands	11	SDCC Build	Pre-Planning	Q2.2030
Lucan	Sarsfield Park	5	SDCC Build	Construction	Q1.2026
Lucan	Somerton Gate	68	AHB Delivery	Construction	Q3.2026
Palmerstown / Fonthill	St Ronan's Crescent	9	SDCC Build	Construction	Q3.2026
Tallaght Central	St Aongus Green	12	SDCC Build	Construction	Q1.2026
Rathfarnham / Templeogue	Whitehall Road	13	AHB Delivery	Construction	Q1.2026
Firhouse / Bohernabreena	Pearse Brothers Park	10	SDCC Build	Construction	Q4.2026
Firhouse / Bohernabreena	Stocking Avenue	9	SDCC Build	Planning Granted	Q2.2027

**Q7/O126**

**Councillor Y. Collins**

To ask the Chief Executive for details of initiatives to promote tourism throughout the County for 2026.

**REPLY:**

The Adopted Budget for 2026, together with the resultant work programmes, provides for a range of initiatives to promote tourism throughout South Dublin County, in line with the Council's Tourism Strategy 2024–2029.

Key initiatives for 2026 include:

### **Strategic Investment**

An allocation of **€3.75 million for tourism development and promotion**, including **€2.5 million dedicated to the delivery of the Tourism Strategy**, supporting the development of new and enhanced visitor experiences across the County.

### **Major Tourism and Visitor Projects**

Continued construction of the **Dublin Mountains Visitor Centre**, which will provide a major new visitor gateway to the Dublin Mountains.

Progression of the **Rathfarnham Castle Stables and Courtyards project** into detailed design and construction, supported by €7 million in “Thrive” funding.

Advancement of the **Lucan House Masterplan**, including design, consultation and delivery of the first phase.

Further development of the **Tallaght Heritage Centre**, supporting cultural tourism in the County.

Continued delivery of the **12th Lock Masterplan**, including the multi-media studio project, positioning the area as a combined tourism, cultural and enterprise destination.

The **Grand Canal Greenway from 12th Lock to Hazelhatch** becoming operational during 2026, enhancing recreational tourism and active travel connectivity.

### **Events, Festivals and Animation**

Delivery of a countywide programme of **events and festivals**, including the return of **Tradfest** in January 2026, aligned with Fáilte Ireland's *Winter in Dublin* campaign.

Continued support for summer, Halloween and Christmas events across the County.

Ongoing operation of the **Tourism Events and Festival Grant Scheme**, encouraging events to locate in South Dublin and increasing the local economic impact.

## **Local Tourism Assets and Promotion**

**€248,800 allocated to support the operation, maintenance, growth and promotion of Brú Chrónáin Round Tower Visitor Centre.**

Continued development of opportunities arising from **Lucan's Destination Town designation**, in collaboration with Fáilte Ireland, Waterways Ireland and neighbouring local authorities.

Ongoing investment in public realm, parks, heritage and cultural infrastructure, supporting the overall visitor experience throughout the County.

These initiatives are designed to increase visitor numbers, extend dwell time, support local employment and strengthen South Dublin's profile as a tourism destination during 2026. All of these initiatives will be supported by an annual communications programme for tourism in the County, whilst a new Events Team has been established, which will oversee the delivery of an annual calendar of events to support domestic and international tourism in South Dublin.

**Q8/O126**

### **Councillor Y. Collins**

To ask the Chief Executive how it proposes to facilitate and encourage public engagement in the context of local authority led nature restoration projects.

### **REPLY:**

South Dublin County Council's work in nature enhancement is informed and supported by a number of plans and policies such as the County Development Plan, SDCC's Biodiversity Plan, the Green Infrastructure Strategy, Climate Change Plan, SDCC's Pollinator Plan and the Parks and Open Space Strategy. Through the County Development Plan SDCC have implemented an approach to integrating biodiversity and sustainability into local planning. It creates and / or retains a connected network of ecological corridors across the county, ensuring the delivery of essential development and protecting and enhancing nature. A key strength of the plans and strategies is its integration into daily operations, from influencing every planning application to guiding the management of parks, open spaces, and drainage networks and encouraging the involvement of adjacent communities. Action is also implemented through projects directly delivered by local community groups. Innovative examples include Ireland's first use of a Green Space Factor to assess green infrastructure in developments, a county-wide Pollinator Action Plan

covering over 200 hectares of meadows, and community-led planting of Mini-woodlands.

SDCC's key objectives cross a number of strategies including; enhancing biodiversity, restoring habitat connectivity, promoting nature-based solutions like Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS), implementing a county-wide Pollinator Action Plan, and empowering community engagement in green space management. These objectives are being delivered through the creation of a county-wide network of green corridors using rivers, canals, woodlands, meadows, and parklands—designed not just for wildlife, but also to deliver ecosystem services such as clean air, water management, and access to nature. By embedding sustainability into all aspects of planning and land management, the strategy enables balanced, nature-friendly development and offers a replicable model to foster biodiversity while meeting development needs.

Local communities play a central role in the implementation of biodiversity protection, enhancement and nature restoration. Residents are encouraged to engage with the Council through a range of activities, including tree planting initiatives, supporting the Pollinator Action Plan, active environmental-supporting events held during the year and participating in Tidy Towns, residents' associations, and environmental groups. Community members work closely with the Council's Public Realm staff and park rangers, who provide expert guidance and resources to ensure community-led projects align with the protection and enhancement of the environment. Projects like the planting of Mini-Woodlands demonstrate how local volunteers are directly contributing to strengthening biodiversity and ecological connectivity. Community interest in taking climate action is actively supported by the Council, and this energy has assisted greatly with practical, impactful projects such as pollinator-friendly planting, the creation of meadows, wetlands and green space enhancements. Active community involvement has assisted greatly with the development of Integrated Construction Wetlands and these partnerships ensure that actions taken by communities are not only locally meaningful but also strategically aligned to deliver wider environmental benefits. This collaborative approach empowers residents to shape their own neighbourhoods while also supporting regional sustainability objectives. The result is a deeper sense of ownership, increased environmental awareness, and stronger social cohesion, all of which contribute to the long-term success and resilience of the GI Strategy. SDCC look forward to continuing and building on public engagement with nature restoration projects and programmes and the recent

advertisement for a Biodiversity Officer for the Council, subject to successful recruitment and appointment processes, will help support and enhance this work going forward.

Browse a selection of these actions on SDCC's Climate Action Storymap <https://arcg.is/1GOGPe>

**Q9/0126** **Councillor Y. Collins**

To ask the Chief Executive how long it typically takes for single yellow lines and associated signage to be installed once it has been approved at a Council Traffic Management Meeting.

**REPLY:**

Once relevant statutory road markings and signage e.g. single / double yellow line parking restrictions and associated signage have been considered by the Traffic Section, local consultation is undertaken ego through letter drops to affected residents.

Where no significant objections are received, the proposed single or double yellow line measures are submitted to An Garda Síochána for statutory approval.

Following Garda approval, the works are programmed for delivery. In general, installation is completed within 8 to 12 weeks from approval, subject to contractor availability, weather conditions, and the overall traffic management works programme.

**Q10/0126** **Councillor H. Farrell**

To ask the Manager if SDCC has considered or piloted "chatty benches" in any park in the county, as per the proposed pilot in Fingal's Malahide Marina Green; if not, would it be possible to consider a plan for suitable locations in green spots around the county.

**REPLY:**

The council aims to design inclusive public spaces, a universal access approach is used, this approach encompasses the provision of benches, park furniture and facilities that cater to a wide range of needs and requirements. Public Realm are committed to offering a wide selection of seating options throughout parks and open spaces, including benches specifically designed for older individuals and those with disabilities, tables that are wheelchair-accessible, and seating suitable for individuals with young children. Additionally, some benches incorporate tactile and sensory qualities, and in teenspaces larger group benches are provided for teenagers. South Dublin County Council is also a signatory to the Barcelona

Declaration, whereby this Council recognises the importance of addressing the needs of individuals with disabilities as an essential component of the decision-making processes.

The provision of €50,000 was made in the 2026 Annual Budget for the delivery of age friendly benches across the county.

The placement of benches and other furniture is carefully considered to ensure safe and level access for all individuals, taking into account the specific needs of those with disabilities, in addition careful placement also ensures that benches are placed in safe areas, in areas that have a view or areas that are quiet and allow for restful contemplation and access to nature, which is increasingly seen as important to reduce stress. In recent years, the Council has designed and implemented wheelchair accessible picnic benches. These benches are a very welcome addition to the County's public realm furniture. They are universally accessible and inclusive and can be used by wheelchair users in the same way as non-wheelchair users. The bench design varies and can facilitate 2 wheelchairs, one on either side of the table along the end of each bench. Another design accommodates one wheelchair and allows easier access to a person with reduced mobility such as an elderly person or someone using a walking frame, where a bench seat would be too difficult to access. These benches are also particularly useful for people with buggies. All accessible benches require a hard surface circulatory route around the bench and a surfaced path leading to the bench.

Providing furniture in parks and open spaces that is as universally accessible as possible, encourages interactions across a broad spectrum of local communities and park visitors and allows people to decide their own interactions; to meet and greet each other or sit quietly, relax, and contemplate. By considering these factors, we aim to create an environment that accommodates the needs of everyone in our community. The recent provision of Park House Cafes in 2 SDCC parks has developed a focal point for people to meet each other. Informal feedback, received from regular park users in those parks, cite how they feel safe talking to people they know to be regular users of the park in the busy coffee shop environment, which is seen as a very positive benefit of such provision. By considering all the above factors, SDCC aim to create an environment that accommodates the needs of everyone in our community.

**Q11/0126 Councillor P. Holohan**

To ask the Chief Executive to provide report in graph form showing the amount of new social housing units built in each LEA in the past 10 years?

Q11 New Social Builds

**Q12/O126** **Councillor K. Keane**

To ask the Chief Executive to report on the process for review of the differential rent scheme, including details of consultation with tenants, tenant unions such as CATU, and organisations with expertise in tackling poverty and inequality.

**REPLY:**

'An Overview of Local Authorities Differential Rent Schemes and Rent Reviews' is due to be published imminently by the Value for Money Unit, Local Government Audit Service. This report is nearing completion and will provide a strong evidential basis for strategic adjustment of our differential rent scheme to address inequities in the current rent scheme along with ensuring that sufficient funding is in place to meet future social housing management and maintenance costs.

Each local authority currently has autonomy in determining how social housing rents are set through a differential rent scheme which is a function of the council's executive. We are very conscious that any adjustments to the scheme must first and foremost be equitable and affordable for our tenants, while also being sufficient to meet all of the costs involved in managing, maintaining and upgrading our social homes into the future. Accordingly, in 2026 we will present our housing stock investment programme to the Housing Strategic Committee for review along with the analysis supporting a review of the current differential rent scheme to ensure long-term sustainable funding for the management and maintenance of our housing stock.

**Q13/O126** **Councillor K. Keane**

To ask the Chief Executive for the breakdown for 2025, in tabular form, of housing maintenance requests received by the council, including how many were investigated, agreed to, and completed?

**REPLY:**

The council manages over 10,500 social homes and categorises all requests for repairs depending on the nature of the problem. These categories are emergency, urgent, routine or cyclical. We endeavour to respond to requests for repairs according to the guidelines below:

<b>CATEGORY</b>	<b>TIMESCALE</b>	<b>EXAMPLE</b>
Emergency	1 – 5 working days	Smoking Fuse Board, Burst water tank

Urgent	10 working days	Leak under sink unit, Leaking roof
Routine	12 weeks +	Replace toilet cistern, Faulty radiator
Cyclical	1 – 7 years	Leaking gutters, replacement hall door etc.

The response may involve an initial inspection of the property to determine the exact nature of the works to ensure that the request is recorded and categorised correctly. Works are then either classified as response or routine/cyclical and assigned to a particular response or planned maintenance programme. The aim under our Housing Stock Investment Programme is 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. In addition, following inspection some maintenance requests are determined to be the tenant's responsibility and therefore fall outside the scope of works undertaken by our maintenance team. For the reasons outlined this can result in a variance between the number of requests received and the number of work orders completed per month.

The table below provides a monthly breakdown of the number of work orders raised and completed for 2025:

	Work orders raised	Work orders completed
January	2,186	1,438
February	1,631	1,258
March	1,542	1,252
April	1,343	938
May	1,079	774
June	1,250	928
July	1,404	981
August	1,243	820
September	1,694	1,122
October	1,723	1,204
November	1,912	1,267
December	1,387	1,389
<b>Total</b>	<b>18,394</b>	<b>13,371</b>

**Q14/O126 Councillor E. Murphy**

To ask the Chief Executive would he consider that South Dublin County Council move to a model of Community Wardens, where wardens would have broad enforcement powers in the areas of parking enforcement, litter fines and enforcement of responsible dog ownership; a similar model is in place in Cork City Council and Dublin City Council.

**REPLY:**

The current model operated by SDCC is in recognition of the volume, scope and scale of enforcement functions across a large and diverse administrative area, which requires dedicated resources with specific competencies, training and statutory authority to deliver effective, consistent and legally robust enforcement outcomes. The nature and scale of these functions mean they cannot be delivered efficiently or safely through a single, generic enforcement role without adversely impacting service delivery, compliance levels and public confidence.

This is reflected in the retention of dedicated resources in the following areas:

**Control of Parking**

The Transportation Department oversees parking controls via setting parking policy / making Bye Laws while combined "on and off street" managed parking services is contracted to Tazbell Services Group for a prescribed period up to a minimum of 31st January 2027, with an option for 2 of 12-month extension periods.

Enforcement of Control of Parking Byelaws 2021

General Regulation of Parking of Vehicle Restrictions and Prohibitions S.I 182/1997 Road Traffic (Traffic and Parking) Regulations, 1997

**Litter Wardens**

Litter Wardens are responsible for enforcement of the Litter Pollution Act 1997 and Section 71 of the Waste Management Acts 1996, relating to abandoned vehicles.

Litter enforcement is a broad-scope function encompassing investigation, evidence gathering, follow-up action, prosecution support and engagement with residents, businesses and community groups. The volume of complaints, geographic spread of incidents and recurring nature of offences require Litter Wardens with dedicated focus, local area knowledge and sustained presence to achieve effective deterrence and compliance.

## **Dog Wardens**

Dog Wardens enforce the Control of Dogs Act 1986 (as amended).

Dog control is a specialist enforcement function involving public safety considerations, animal welfare responsibilities, seizure powers and statutory detention requirements. These duties require specific training, equipment and operational procedures that are not interchangeable with other enforcement roles.

SDCC currently employs six Litter Wardens and two Dog Wardens, with an active recruitment process underway to increase the number of Dog Wardens in response to service demand and statutory obligations.

In addition to these enforcement roles, Litter and Dog Wardens work in partnership with the following staff resources and support the work in these areas:

- Environmental Awareness
- Public Realm
- Park Rangers
- Community Safety Partnership
- Estate Management
- Housing Welfare
- Community Officers

This partnership approach enhances enforcement outcomes while ensuring that statutory enforcement responsibilities remain with authorised officers.

Dublin City Council and Cork City Council operate a similar model to SDCC. Cork City Council also have Community Wardens (RAPID Funded) to operate in designed RAPID areas. Their role is to work with local communities to improve the physical environment through education, enforcement and local action. The Community wardens are not substitutes for traffic/litter wardens; they support the enforcement roles similar to the way Estate officers and Community Officers support the enforcement teams in SDCC.

SDCC supports a similar government initiative through the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) called Empowering Communities. Managed by South Dublin County Partnership and operated in Clondalkin-Moorfield, Jobstown-Tallaght, this programme has delivered the following:

### **Empowering Communities Projects**

- Bike Project for families

- Resourcing community led events
- Door to door outreach and information
- School & community clean ups
- Supporting community leaders to develop initiatives
- Training and upskilling for community leaders
- Residential environmental projects

In addition to enforcement activities, SDCC Dog and Litter Wardens work proactively to support communities on specific events / initiatives in conjunction with the sections listed above, with an emphasis on prevention.

SDCC recognises that a more structured coordination of these roles and responsibilities may enhance the efficiencies of enforcement activities and will examine practical ways to achieve this, having regard to existing statutory functions and available resources.

As part of the ongoing review of the Litter Management Plan, the council is also examining how a more structured coordination around enforcement wardens and associated measures can be strengthened.

**Q15/O126** **Councillor E. Ó Broin**

To ask the Chief Executive is groups registered with the South Dublin County Public Participation Network need to re-register annually?

**REPLY:**

Membership registration for South Dublin County PPN is managed through the national CRM system provided by the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht. This is a nationally defined process and is carried out in line with the requirements set out in the PPN Handbook.

The most recent re-registration process took place in Q4 2024 and was overseen by the PPN Secretariat, with operational support from South Dublin County Volunteer Centre. PPNs are required to undertake this process every two years to ensure that membership remains active, accurate and compliant with national governance and GDPR requirements.

**Q16/O126** **Councillor E. Ó Broin**

To ask the Chief Executive what efforts were made to ensure that groups active in the SDCC area re registered with the Public Participation Network recently?

**REPLY:**

Membership registration for South Dublin County PPN is managed through the national CRM system provided by the Department of

Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht. This is a nationally defined process and is carried out in line with the requirements set out in the PPN Handbook.

The most recent re-registration process took place in Q4 2024 and was overseen by the PPN Secretariat, with operational support from South Dublin County Volunteer Centre. PPNs are required to undertake this process every two years to ensure that membership remains active, accurate and compliant with national governance and GDPR requirements.

The re-registration process followed these steps:

- A re-registration email was issued to all registered member groups via the national PPN CRM system.
- A follow-up reminder email was issued to groups that had not responded.
- Where no re-registration was completed within the defined timeframe, the membership record was deactivated.

Organisations can also re-register, or submit a new membership application, at any point during the year. Active member organisations are published in the PPN's online member directory.

Throughout 2025, 66 new groups registered with South Dublin County PPN, representing an increase of 21% in membership since January 2025.

Registration with the PPN continues to be actively encouraged through a range of mechanisms, including engagement by South Dublin County Council with community and voluntary groups, referrals through council programmes, and ongoing promotion of the PPN as the recognised mechanism for community representation within the county.

A new PPN Host Organisation has been in place since January 2025, and a new PPN Coordinator since May 2025. Working alongside the Secretariat and key stakeholders, South Dublin County PPN membership continues to be promoted on an ongoing basis.

**Q17/O126** **Councillor E. Ó Broin**

To ask the Chief Executive for an update on his applications to the Environmental Protection Agency for certificates of authorisation for both the Friarstown and the Waterstown landfills?

**REPLY:**

The Waste Management (Certification of Historic Unlicensed Waste Disposal and Recovery Activity) Regulations, 2008, addresses the

processing of closed landfill certification. Closed Landfill Certification relates to landfill site operated by a local authority for the recovery or disposal of waste without a waste licence on any date between 15th July 1977 and 27th March 1997. SDCC has two historic landfill sites under this classification.

Site Name	Reference Number	Risk Rating	Location
Friarstown	S22-02166	High	Friarstown, Tallaght
Waterstown	S22-02167	High	Waterstown, Palmerstown

The National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy 2024-2030, in particular Appendix 8, provides a standardised approach for local authorities to address the issues associated with historic landfill sites. The plan takes into consideration the Waste Management (Certification of Historic Unlicensed Recovery and Disposal Activity) Regulations 2008, where a local authority must undertake an environmental risk assessment (ERA) of their Closed Landfills (in accordance with the EPA Code of Practice), identify any required remediation works and subsequently apply to the EPA for a Certificate of Authorisation (CoA). SDCC is committed to the plan and in doing so are working closely with our colleagues in the Eastern-Midland Regional Waste Management Planning Office.

A certificate of authorisation has been issued by the EPA for Waterstown (H0424-01). In relation to Friarstown, environmental risk assessments in accordance with the EPA code of practice have been undertaken and an application for a certificate of authorisation is currently being finalised for submission to the EPA for their consideration.

**Q18/0126 Councillor L. O'Toole**

To ask the Chief Executive whether information on parking availability is provided to prospective Council tenants in writing, face-to-face or both and whether this information is communicated prior to a tenancy being accepted.

**REPLY:**

Choice Based Letting (CBL) is our primary method of allocating homes to eligible households from the social housing waiting list. Properties are advertised on our dedicated housing online platform and includes information such as accommodation type, number of bedrooms, tenure type (council owned, long-term lease, AHB property etc.) and essential information regarding parking availability.

Parking availability is also discussed during the consultation process between the successful applicant and the council or the relevant Approved Housing Body (AHB) following the tenant nomination process.

Applicants are advised to be aware of the policies in place before expressing an interest in a property.

**Q19/O126 Councillor L. O'Toole**

To ask the Chief Executive to confirm whether parking allocation in mixed-tenure apartment developments is carried out in a fair and transparent manner and whether parking arrangements form part of the standard tenancy or licence agreement.

**REPLY:**

The rationale to carpark provision in residential development is set out in the County Development Plan 2022/2028 See link [county-development-plan-written-statement1.pdf](#)

County Development Plan 2022-2028 Chapter 7 - Sustainable Movement

**High Level Objective**

Support the County's climate action commitments by reducing greenhouse gas emissions from transport

**SM6 – Demand Management / Mobility Management Plans**

Require **Mobility Management Plans** for major trip-generating developments.

Encourage car-pooling, shared mobility, and reduced car dependency.

**SM7 – Car parking and Electric Vehicle (EV) charging:** adopt a balanced approach to car-parking provision, ensure EV charging infrastructure is provided in suitable locations

There are 2 main categories identified on pages Page 493 and 494 of the Written Statement as follows:

Zone 1: General rate applicable throughout the County;

Zone 2 (Non-Residential): More restrictive rates for application within town and village centres, lands zoned REGEN, and brownfield / infill sites within Dublin City and Suburbs settlement boundary within 800 metres of a train or Luas station and within 400-500 metres of a high quality bus service (including proposed services that have proceeded to construction).

Permission for residential car parking is restricted / predicated on the accommodation type being developed e.g. Apartment or House, the location of the development, and its proximity to public transport and the quality of that public service. The number of spaces provided for any particular development should not exceed the maximum provision for either zone 1 or zone 2 as set out in the County Development Plan.

This Council has no remit in tenancy agreements for private mixed tenure developments. This is a matter for the OMC who may apply certain rules regarding parking allocation.

**Q20/0126 Councillor L. O'Toole**

To ask the Chief Executive what information guidance or supports are provided to prospective Council tenants where parking is limited or unavailable and what measures are in place to ensure tenants are not disadvantaged or exposed to recurrent fines due to unclear information at the point of letting.

**REPLY:**

Choice Based Letting (CBL) is our primary method of allocating homes to eligible households from the social housing waiting list. Properties are advertised on our dedicated housing online platform which includes information such as accommodation type, number of bedrooms, tenure type (council owned, long-term lease, AHB property etc.) and essential information regarding parking availability.

Parking availability is also discussed during the consultation process between the successful applicant and the council or the relevant Approved Housing Body (AHB) following the tenant nomination process. Applicants are advised to be aware of the policies in place before expressing an interest in a property.

The Estate Management Team provides pre-tenancy training to inform prospective tenants of specific parking restrictions and clarifies that enforcement is managed by the relevant management company, who is responsible for overseeing all parking related issues in the development.

**Q21/0126 Councillor L. O'Toole**

To ask the Chief Executive whether South Dublin County Council holds or can request data from Approved Housing Bodies or management companies regarding parking fines, clamping or enforcement actions affecting residents in social, affordable and mixed-tenure developments and whether there is any intention to

monitor parking enforcement practices in such developments in the future.

**REPLY:**

In general, the council manages parking on public roads through enforcement of the Control of Parking Byelaw's 2021 and the general regulation of Parking of Vehicle Restrictions and Prohibitions 46 S.I 182/1997 Road Traffic (Traffic and Parking) Regulations, 1997.

The Transport Department is not responsible for parking enforcement on roads / within developments that are not Taken In Charge / not under its control and which are instead managed by an OMC or other entities.

The Housing Department doesn't hold or request data from Approved Housing Bodies or OMCs regarding parking fines, clamping or enforcement actions affecting residents in social, affordable and mixed-tenure developments.

**Q22/O126 Councillor J. Sinnott**

To ask the Chief Executive to outline the additional cost and work that has been required by South Dublin County Council to clean up after the significant number of storms that have occurred over the winter 2025 period.

**REPLY:**

There have been four severe weather events over the winter 2025 period, from January to December 2025, thus far, for which SDCC's Severe Weather Assessment Team (SWAT) was activated:

- Storm Eowyn, a red status wind and rain event, which occurred on 24<sup>th</sup> Approximately 220 incidents were reported to SDCC to address during the event.
- Storm Amy which occurred on the 4<sup>th</sup> October 2025. This was a yellow rainfall event but was initially treated as an orange status event as it was flagged that the status may have been elevated to orange.
- An Orange Status Rainfall event on the 14<sup>th</sup> November 2025, associated with Storm Claudia. 116 incidents were reported to SDCC to address during the event.
- Storm Bram, an orange status wind event, on the 9<sup>th</sup> December 2025. 33 incidents were reported to SDCC to address during the event.

Work in advance of these events was incorporated into normal working hours. These included holding Severe Weather Assessment Team meetings, assessing the readiness of the Council to respond to

any incidents that might arise, and mitigation works to reduce the impacts of expected rainfall, including the cleaning of screens on the stormwater network, street sweeping to remove build-up of leaves and targeted gully cleaning, etc.

The additional work required to address all incidents arising was managed as part of the daily workload and resources where possible. As such, these resources, staff and fleet for example, are not assigned a financial cost. However, these additional works impacted on resources for the ongoing council workload.

The additional costs incurred in 2025 are in the region of €153,212, not including the costs expected due to ongoing housing repairs, as set out below.

- Public Realm Operations incurred additional costs of €59,500 during Storm Eowyn. For the other storm events staffing overtime costs during storms periods of approximately €10,100 was incurred. Public Realm Crews typically worked at addressing storm damage to trees resulting from high winds and localised flooding in SDCC Parks. In the days following the storm, crews typically are diverted from normal planned maintenance to continue the clean-up operations. The costs of redeployment and delays to other works are not captured but are considered as part of the annual costs and workload for the section.
- Natural Water Team incurred staff overtime costs in the region of €3,740 to undertaken stormwater network screen cleaning and surface water removal during the Orange Status rainfall event in November.
- Housing Department incurred additional costs totalling €47,794 for repairs and remedial works following Storm Eowyn. There are 83 work orders associated with the other three events, all relating to roof damage, which have been issued to five area response contractors.
- Roads Maintenance incurred additional costs of approximately €32,078 to address issues on regional and local roads. This comprised of:
  - Storm Eowyn: €16,013 (including €1,923 for public lighting works)
  - Storm Amy costs were approx.: €7,225.
  - Orange Status Rainfall event 14<sup>th</sup> Nov 2025 costs were approx.: €5,370.
  - Storm Bram costs were approx.: €3,470

**Q23/0126 Councillor J. Sinnott**

To ask the Chief Executive if the plans for the roll out of the new solar public bins could be outlined for 2026

**REPLY:**

Our Public Realm Team are currently rolling out the provision of solar compactor bins in the Tallaght, Rathfarnham, Clondalkin and Lucan areas. Works in Tallaght and Rathfarnham are complete, with bin installation in Lucan and Clondalkin to be completed in January 2026. Once installed, a total of 102 solar compactor smart bins will be in operation at a total investment of approximately €450,000. With the increased bin storage capacity, and inbuilt smart technology, the frequency of bin emptying will be reduced, resulting in the continued lowering of our carbon footprint.

A provision of €500,000 for the purchase of an additional 100 solar compactor bins has been included in the 3-year capital programme 2026-2028. The additional installations will be targeted at high-footfall areas such as town/village/district centres and busy park entrances. Once funding is confirmed, a phased programme of delivery will be developed and made available for circulation.

**Q24/0126 Councillor J. Sinnott**

To ask the Chief Executive how many of the 77 applications for planning retention granted in 2025 were for developers or in respect of multiple units?

**REPLY:**

The **Planning and Development Act 2000** or the new **2024 Act** do not explicitly define "developer" but rather focuses on **"development"** and those seeking permission to carry it out. The Acts defines "development" , except where the context otherwise requires, the carrying out of any works on, in, over or under land or the making of any material change in the use of any structures or other land.

Details of 2025 planning retention decisions are set out in the separately attached report.

The copied link provided here can also be used to search the Council's Planning Portal.

[Q24 \(b\) Report Retention Files Granted for 2025](#)

**Q25/0126 Councillor J. Sinnott**

To ask the Chief Executive how much of the allocated budget for the vacant property refurbishment grants was spent in 2025?

**REPLY:**

The vacant property refurbishment grant was introduced in 2022, as one of the supports available to bring vacant and/or derelict properties back into use. A grant of up to €50,000 is available. If the refurbishment costs exceed the standard grant of up to €50,000, a top-up grant amount of up to €20,000 is available. To get this top-up grant, you must confirm that the property is derelict. In 2025, an allocation of €2.8m was approved in the revenue budget for the payment of vacant property grants. 58 grants in the amount of €2.86m were paid out in 2025.

Due to the success of the grant, an additional €700,000 was allocated to bring derelict /vacant properties back into permanent homes with €3.5m in the revenue budget for 2026.

**Q26/0126 Councillor J. Sinnott**

To ask the Chief Executive whether the allocation of €100,000 in the 2025 budget for existing Tidy Towns groups and for support for new groups starting up was fully utilised in 2025?

**REPLY:**

The current expenditure of the €100,000 budget allocation for Tidy Towns is €95,322.85. There are another 2 payments currently being processed which amount to €2,049.10. This will bring the total figure to €97,371.95. The breakdown of these payments for each Tidy Towns group is listed below for your information.

<b>Tidy Towns Group</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Amount Approved (€)</b>
Clondalkin	3rd party Contracted works	795.00
Clondalkin	3rd party Contracted works	8,172.00
Clondalkin	Community	1,500.00
Clondalkin	Community	700.00
Clondalkin	Biodiversity	10,000.00
Clondalkin	Community	2,000.00

Clondalkin	3rd party Contracted works	3,857.87
Clondalkin	Equipment	2,894.00
Clondalkin	Equipment	537.41
Clondalkin	Seed funding	455.00
Springfield	Equipment	1,000.00
Springfield	Biodiversity	1,000.00
Adamstown	Biodiversity	500.00
Adamstown	3rd party Contracted works	1,500.00
Adamstown	Biodiversity	418.20
Saggart	Seed funding	400.00
Saggart	Seed funding	400.00
Saggart	Storage	450.00
Saggart	Biodiversity	800.00
Saggart	Equipment	150.00
Saggart	Education	700.00
Woodstown	Biodiversity	340.00
Woodstown	Sustainability	3,000.00
Woodstown	Community	2,500.00
Woodstown	Seed funding	2,000.00
Newcastle	Equipment	578.34
Newcastle	Equipment	105.55
Newcastle	Equipment	756.45
Newcastle	Biodiversity	1,810.00
Newcastle	Seed funding	769.85
Newcastle	3rd party Contracted works	3,250.00
Newcastle	3rd party Contracted works	3,075.00

Newcastle	Storage	4,235.00
Rathfarnham	Seed funding	2,000.00
Rathfarnham	Biodiversity	4,500.00
Rathfarnham	Education	1,500.00
Rathfarnham	Equipment	2,400.00
Rathfarnham	Education	800.00
Rathfarnham	Biodiversity	300.00
Rathfarnham	Community	400.00
Knocklyon	Seed funding	2,000.00
Knocklyon	Equipment	378.00
Knocklyon	Community	1,125.00
Knocklyon	Biodiversity	150.00
Knocklyon	Sustainability	200.00
Knocklyon	Biodiversity	1,600.00
Knocklyon	Education	1,500.00
Knocklyon	Equipment	600.00
Knocklyon	Community	10,490.18
Knocklyon	Biodiversity	1,100.00
Knocklyon	Biodiversity	1,500.00
Tallaght village	Community	750.00
Tallaght village	Community	280.00
Tallaght village	Community	750.00
Tallaght village	Sustainability	350.00
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>95,322.85</b>

**Q27/O126 Councillor J. Spear**

To ask the Chief Executive to report on the average length of time a Council tenant is on the transfer list before an offer is made? Please report in tabular form transfer list average wait times for 2 bedrooms, 3 bedrooms, 4 bedrooms.

**REPLY:**

Existing council and approved housing body tenants may apply for consideration for a transfer to alternative accommodation. An application will only be accepted on the basis of the below criteria:-

1. Exceptional medical/compassionate grounds (regard to be had for report from our medical advisors/housing welfare officers as appropriate)
2. Older Persons (aged 55 or over) rightsizing accommodation
3. Tenants rightsizing to the specific home size of accommodation that matches their need and to make better use of our housings stock
4. Overcrowding
5. To facilitate incremental purchase, where the authority has consented to such a purchase.

In addition to the above criteria, tenants seeking a transfer must fulfil the following requirements:

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

Existing tenants must complete the [Transfer application form](#) and submit with the necessary support documents. Transfers are facilitated in accordance with our [Allocation Scheme](#) and subject to the availability of suitable properties.

The table below details the number of transfers completed in 2025, categorised by housing need and the average time on the waiting list:

<b>Housing Need</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Average waiting time in years</b>
One bedroom	14	5.7
Two bedrooms	6	1.5
Three bedrooms	12	4.8
Four bedrooms	1	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>33</b>	

**Q28/0126 Councillor F. Timmons**

To ask the Chief Executive for a report into how many homes the Clonburris and Adamstown SDZs are targeted to provide and how this compares with other local authorities?

**REPLY:**

A key principle of both the Clonburris and Adamstown SDZ planning schemes is the provision of the balanced delivery of infrastructure, urban centres and community services in tandem with population growth in order to ensure sustainable communities and place making are prioritised. The targeted number of homes for delivery within both the Clonburris and Adamstown SDZs alongside the level of delivery as of Q3 2025 and the remaining homes to be delivered are:

**Adamstown SDZ:** Target: 9,395 Homes – Delivered to Date: c5,100 – Remaining Homes to be delivered if hitting the target: c.4,214

**Clonburris SDZ:** Target: 9,416 Homes – Delivered to Date: c800 – Remaining Homes to be delivered if hitting the target: c.8,624

Please note that the Planning Schemes provide a range for homes and the target is the mid-point.

\*Note Delivered to Date: Source **SDCC Housing Supply Monitor**

For comparison purposes, the following provides details of homes for delivery in SDZs located within the wider Dublin Area:

**Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown – Cherrywood:** c. 10,500 homes. This is the max permissible under the SDZ

**Dublin City - North Lotts and Grand Canal Dock:** c. 2,600 homes. This is the target number detailed within the SDZ

**Dublin City – Poolbeg West:** c. 3,800 homes. This is the max detailed within the SDZ.

**Fingal: Hansfield, Blanchardstown:** c. 3,000 homes. This is the target as detailed within the SDZ.

**Q29/0126 Councillor F. Timmons**

To ask the Chief Executive for a report into SDCC ability to use Compulsory Purchase orders and to outline the process involved?

**REPLY:**

SDCC, as a planning authority and housing authority, has statutory powers to acquire land compulsorily for the purpose of carrying out its statutory functions, in particular the delivery of housing and essential public infrastructure. These powers arise primarily under the

Planning and Development Acts 2000–2023 and the Housing Acts 1966–2023 and are supplemented by roads and infrastructure legislation where land is required to deliver transport and enabling infrastructure in accordance with adopted plans.

The use of a Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) must be clearly justified by reference to a defined public purpose, must be necessary to enable delivery of a specific housing or infrastructure project, and must be proportionate in scale and extent. The justification for the use of a CPO is critically important and must be grounded in a policy context for a specific purpose, where for instance in the case of housing provision, the land proposed to be acquired should be designated for the purposes of housing delivery and/or the regeneration of land or the relevant land should be required to facilitate access or service provision to directly support housing delivery. CPOs are a lawful but targeted mechanism, generally used where acquisition by agreement has not been achievable.

At a high level, the CPO process involves identification of the lands required, preparation of a justification report, preparation of statutory maps and schedules, authorisation by Chief Executive Order, public notice and notification to affected parties, consideration by An Coimisiún Pleanála (including oral hearing where required), confirmation of the Order, and the subsequent acquisition of the lands and settlement of compensation in accordance with statutory provisions.

**Q30/O126 Councillor F. Timmons**

To ask the Chief Executive that SDCC issue a report on how the €100,000 SDCC Tidy Towns grant was allocated in 2025?

**REPLY:**

The current expenditure of the €100,000 budget allocation for Tidy Towns is €95,322.85. There are another 2 payments currently being processed which amount to €2,049.10. This will bring the total figure to €97,371.95. The breakdown of these payments for each Tidy Towns group is listed below for your information.

<b>Tidy Towns Group</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Amount Approved (€)</b>
Clondalkin	3rd party Contracted works	795.00
Clondalkin	3rd party Contracted works	8,172.00
Clondalkin	Community	1,500.00

Clondalkin	Community	700.00
Clondalkin	Biodiversity	10,000.00
Clondalkin	Community	2,000.00
Clondalkin	3rd party Contracted works	3,857.87
Clondalkin	Equipment	2,894.00
Clondalkin	Equipment	537.41
Clondalkin	Seed funding	455.00
Springfield	Equipment	1,000.00
Springfield	Biodiversity	1,000.00
Adamstown	Biodiversity	500.00
Adamstown	3rd party Contracted works	1,500.00
Adamstown	Biodiversity	418.20
Saggart	Seed funding	400.00
Saggart	Seed funding	400.00
Saggart	Storage	450.00
Saggart	Biodiversity	800.00
Saggart	Equipment	150.00
Saggart	Education	700.00
Woodstown	Biodiversity	340.00
Woodstown	Sustainability	3,000.00
Woodstown	Community	2,500.00
Woodstown	Seed funding	2,000.00
Newcastle	Equipment	578.34
Newcastle	Equipment	105.55
Newcastle	Equipment	756.45
Newcastle	Biodiversity	1,810.00
Newcastle	Seed funding	769.85

Newcastle	3rd party Contracted works	3,250.00
Newcastle	3rd party Contracted works	3,075.00
Newcastle	Storage	4,235.00
Rathfarnham	Seed funding	2,000.00
Rathfarnham	Biodiversity	4,500.00
Rathfarnham	Education	1,500.00
Rathfarnham	Equipment	2,400.00
Rathfarnham	Education	800.00
Rathfarnham	Biodiversity	300.00
Rathfarnham	Community	400.00
Knocklyon	Seed funding	2,000.00
Knocklyon	Equipment	378.00
Knocklyon	Community	1,125.00
Knocklyon	Biodiversity	150.00
Knocklyon	Sustainability	200.00
Knocklyon	Biodiversity	1,600.00
Knocklyon	Education	1,500.00
Knocklyon	Equipment	600.00
Knocklyon	Community	10,490.18
Knocklyon	Biodiversity	1,100.00
Knocklyon	Biodiversity	1,500.00
Tallaght village	Community	750.00
Tallaght village	Community	280.00
Tallaght village	Community	750.00
Tallaght village	Sustainability	350.00
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>95,322.85</b>

**Q31/0126 Councillor F. Timmons**

To ask the Chief Executive to clarify business owners' responsibilities under the Litter Pollution Acts and how is this communicated to them by SDCC?

**REPLY:**

Under the Litter Pollution Acts 1997–2009, business owners and occupiers of premises have a statutory responsibility to take all reasonable measures to prevent the creation of litter arising from their business activities. This includes maintaining the area immediately adjoining their premises, such as footpaths, forecourts, and customer access areas, to ensure they are in a litter-free condition and ensure that adequate waste management arrangements are in place.

Particular responsibility applies to businesses whose activities are likely to generate litter, including food and takeaway outlets.

South Dublin County Council communicates these obligations to business owners through a number of channels. Information on responsibilities under the Litter Pollution Acts is available on the Council's website and through written correspondence where appropriate.

Business owners are also advised of their obligations during inspections carried out by the Council's Litter Wardens, with guidance provided in the first instance to encourage voluntary compliance.

Where ongoing litter issues are identified, the Council may issue a Section 19 Litter Pollution Notice, which requires the occupier of a premises to take specified measures to prevent the occurrence or recurrence of litter.

Failure to comply with a Section 19 notice may result in further enforcement action, including the issuing of litter fines or prosecution, in accordance with the legislation. This can be further strengthened with a review of the current Litter Management Plan being brought to the Environment, Public Realm & Climate Change SPC and the making of the new Litter Management Plan 2026 - 2029

The Council continues to engage with businesses to promote awareness of their responsibilities and to support compliance with the Litter Pollution Acts, with enforcement measures applied where necessary.

**Q32/0126 Councillor F. Timmons**

To ask the Chief Executive for a report on the process to raise TPOs on council agenda at council meetings?

**REPLY:**

Section 205 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) is the current relevant legislation for a Tree Preservation Order (TPO).

Under the new Planning and Development Act 2024, TPOs are legislated for in Section 267. This part of the 2024 Act is due to be commencement in 2026.

While assessing a request for a TPO and initiating a TPO statutory process is an executive function, the making of a TPO is a reserved function of the Council and needs to include stated reasons to inform decision making.

**It is noted that Section 267(12) of the 2024 Act outlines that a person, in writing, or the members, by resolution, may request the planning authority to propose the making of an order and the planning authority / Chief Executive may, where it considers it appropriate do so, will carry out a review and assessment of the proposed TPO before any formal statutory process commences**

When this legislative provision is commenced, it will provide clarity that a person or a member may formally request the planning authority to consider initiating a TPO and the planning authority / Chief Executive will consider if a TPO is appropriate.

In light of the incoming 2024 Act context, the planning authority outline the following process:

1. A member through an agreed ACM motion can request the planning authority to consider a TPO for a specific tree or trees.
2. As the making of the TPO is a reserved function, a report from the ACM on any agreed TPO motion will be brought to a future Council meeting under 'Reports from Area Committee'. As per Standing Orders, this will be for noting and not for a resolution or decision.
3. The Chief Executive will carry out a review and assessment of the proposed TPO in the context of the relevant legislation (currently Section 205 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended) and bring a report on this consideration of the TPO request(s) in the first instance to the relevant ACM, and subsequently to a full Council Meeting under a Headed Item if required.

4. If the initiation of a TPO is considered appropriate by the Chief Executive and noted at the Council meeting, the planning authority shall commence the statutory process and will serve notice of the proposal on the owner and the occupier of the land affected by the proposed order and commence public consultation under the legislation.
5. The Chief Executive will bring a report on the public consultation with a recommendation to the Council who may by resolution make the order, with or without modifications, or refuse to make the order.

Please note a report from the October 2024 **Clondalkin, Newcastle, Rathcoole Saggart and Brittas Area Committee relating to Motion 11** Fitzmaurice Road, Rathcoole Tree Protection Order is included under the Reports from Area Committee on this agenda.

**Q33/O126 Councillor F. Timmons**

To ask the Chief Executive for a report on the process for TPOs once agreed at council meetings?

**REPLY:**

Section 205 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) is the current relevant legislation for a Tree Preservation Order (TPO). Under the new Planning and Development Act 2024, TPOs are legislated for in Section 267. This part of the 2024 Act is due to be commencement in 2026.

While assessing a request for a TPO and initiating a TPO statutory process is an executive function, the making of a TPO is a reserved function of the Council and needs to include stated reasons to inform decision making.

**It is noted that Section 267(12) of the 2024 Act outlines that a person, in writing, or the members, by resolution, may request the planning authority to propose the making of an order and the planning authority / Chief Executive may, where it considers it appropriate do so, will carry out a review and assessment of the proposed TPO before any formal statutory process commences**

If the commencement of a TPO is considered expedient and appropriate by the planning authority / Chief Executive, and noted at a Council meeting, the process of the relevant Planning & Development Act / legislation commences.

The following is the process under the Planning and Development Act 2000, Section 205(3), (4) and (5)

**S205 (3)(a)** Where a planning authority proposes to make an order under this section, it shall—

(i) serve a notice (which shall include particulars of the proposed order) of its intention to do so on the owner and the occupier of the land affected by the order, and

(ii) cause notice of the proposed order to be published in one or more newspapers circulating in its functional area.

(b) A notice under *paragraph (a)(i)* shall be accompanied by a map indicating the tree, trees, group of trees or woodland to be preserved.

**S205 (4)** A notice under *subsection (3)* shall state that—

(a) the planning authority proposes to make an order preserving the tree, trees, group of trees or woodlands,

(b) submissions or observations regarding the proposed order may be made to the planning authority within a stated period of not less than 6 weeks, and that the submissions or observations will be taken into consideration by the planning authority, and

(c) any person who contravenes an order or, pending the decision of a planning authority, a proposed order under this section, shall be guilty of an offence.

**Section 205 (5)** outlines that the Council having considered the proposal and any submissions or observations made in respect of it, may by resolution, as it considers appropriate, make the order, with or without modifications, or refuse to make the order, and any person on whom notice has been served shall be notified accordingly.

The effect of a TPO is set out in **Section 205 (2)** which states that a TPO may—

(a) prohibit (subject to any conditions or exemptions for which provision may be made by the order) the cutting down, topping, lopping or wilful destruction of trees, and

(b) require the owner and occupier of the land affected by the order to enter into an agreement with the planning authority to ensure the proper management of any trees, group of trees or woodlands (including the replanting of trees), subject to the planning authority providing assistance, including financial assistance, towards such management as may be agreed.

**H6/0126**

**DECLARATION OF ROADS TO BE MADE PUBLIC ROADS  
(NO BUSINESS)**

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

**H7/0126**      **PROPOSED DISPOSAL OF PROPERTIES/SITES - FOR APPROVAL  
(NO BUSINESS)**

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

**H8/0126**      **CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT - FOR NOTING**

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

HI 8 (a) Chief Executive's Report - January 2026

HI 8 (b) Statistics Report - December 2025

HI 8 (c) Finance Report

*The reports were **NOTED**.*

**H9/0126**      **CAPITAL PROGRAMME UPDATE & THREE-YEAR CAPITAL  
PROGRAMME 2026 - 2028 - 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 9 (a) Three Year Capital Programme 2026-2028

HI 9 (b) Council Meeting Three Year Capital Programme 2026-28 Jan 2026

HI 9 (c) Capital Programme Update January 2026

Mr. C. Ward, Chief Executive, presented the capital programme to the members.

Ms. E. Leech, Director of Housing, presented the Housing section of the capital programme to the members.

Mr. E. Burke, Director of Planning and Transport, presented the Planning and Transport section of the capital programme to the members.

Mr. J. Frehill, Director of Economic Development, presented the Economic Development section of the capital programme to the members.

Ms. T. Walsh, Director of Climate Action, presented the Climate Action section of the capital programme to the members.

Ms. L. Maxwell, Director of Community, presented the Community section of the capital programme to the members.

Mr. R. FitzGerald, Director of Finance, presented an analysis of the Capital Programme funding and expenditure to the members.

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors L. Dunne, M. Johansson, J. Spear, D. Adelaide, J. Tuffy, K. Keane, Y. Collins, F. Timmons, L. McCrave, P. Holohan, N. Whelan, C. Brady, W. Carey, J. Sinnott, L. O'Toole, H. Farrell, and L. De Courcy.

Queries were raised regarding Friarstown Allotments, Hotel Development, Citywest Community Centre, Hellfire Club, District Heating, Housing, 12<sup>th</sup> Lock Studio, Active Travel, pitches, footpaths, Lucan Pool and Rathfarnham Village Upgrade

Mr. C. Ward, Chief Executive, and the Directors responded to the member queries.

*The reports were **NOTED**.*

#### **H10/0126 ECONOMIC STRATEGY - FOR NOTING**

The following reports by the Chief Executive, which had been circulated, were presented by Mr. Paul Fusco, Senior Executive Officer and were **CONSIDERED**.

HI 10 (a) Economic Strategy Presentation

HI 10 (b) Draft Economic Strategy

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors J. Sinnott, Y. Collins, D. Adelaide, L. O'Toole, L. Dunne and A. Smyth, with queries raised regarding the National Skills Strategy, public transport, Clonburris SDZ, transport hubs and the Local Enterprise Office

Mr. P. Fusco, Senior Executive Officer, responded to the members queries.

*The report was **NOTED**.*

#### **H11/0126 TALLAGHT EVENING TIME ECONOMY - FOR NOTING**

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

HI 11 Evening Time Economy

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors L. O'Toole, J. Spear, P. Holohan, A. Smyth, H. Farrell and K. Keane. Queries were raised regarding the Tallaght pilot scheme, connectivity, Tallaght Stadium, bicycle parking, farmers markets and art studio location.

Mr. J. Frehill, Director of Economic Development, responded to the members queries.

*The report was **NOTED**.*

**H12/0126 OUTDOOR ADVERTISING UPDATE - FOR NOTING**

The Members **AGREED** to **DEFER** consideration of this item until the February Council Meeting.

**H13/0126 COMMUNITY & SPORTS DEVELOPMENT GRANTS - FOR NOTING**

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

**REPORT:**

The Community Centre Management Support Fund 2025 was circulated to relevant Community Centre Boards of Management and a deadline of 10<sup>th</sup> October 2025 for receipt of completed applications. This offered the opportunity to apply for financial supports under the three defined funding strands within the one application:

- Strand 1) Operational Costs
- Strand 2) Employment, Training & Governance
- Strand 3) Local Community Events

The application process further interrogated the centre usage patterns, ongoing running costs, existing management and staffing structures. Where boards were applying for funding for additional staff and supports, details of the envisaged additionality, facility management and governance enhancements long-term sustainability were also required, and future progress will be measured against these projections.

A total of thirty-two applications were received and assessed with due consideration given to existing core funding and income levels for each centre and how allocations of funding would assist centres to improve both service delivery to the local communities and make improvements to centre management operations.

For Elected Members' information, the Community Services Department has now approved funding of €700,600 for various community facilities as follows:

<b>Community Facility</b>	<b>Contribution towards Management</b>	<b>Contribution Towards Employment,</b>	<b>Contribution Towards the provision of</b>	<b>Totals</b>
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	<b>Operational Costs</b>	<b>Governance &amp; Training</b>	<b>Community Events</b>	
Adamstown Youth & Community Centre	€15,000	€0	€5,000	€20,000
Ballyroan Community & Youth Centre	€15,000	€0	€3,000	€18,000
Bawnogue Youth & Community Centre	€15,000	€30,000	€5,000	€50,000
Belgard Community & Youth Centre	€15,000	€0	€3,000	€18,000
Brittas Community Centre	€10,000	€0	€5,000	€15,000
Dominic's Community Centre	€15,000	€0	€5,000	€20,000
Fettercairn Community & Youth Centre	€15,000	€0	€5,000	€20,000
Fettercairn Youth Horse Project	€15,000	€0	€0	€15,000
Firhouse Community & Leisure Centre	€15,000	€0	€5,000	€20,000
Glenasmole Community Centre	€10,000	€25,000	€5,000	€40,000
Greenhills Community Centre	€10,000	€0	€3,000	€13,000
Jobstown Community & Youth Centre	€15,000	€35,000	€5,000	€55,000
Killinarden Community Centre	€15,000	€0	€5,000	€20,000
Kingswood Community & Leisure Centre	€10,000	€0	€5,000	€15,000
Knocklyon Youth & Community Centre	€10,000	€0	€0	€10,000

St. Finian's Community Centre	€10,000	€19,600	€5,000	€34,600
Palmerstown Community & Youth Centre	€15,000	€25,000	€5,000	€45,000
Perrystown Manor Estate Community Centre	€15,000	€30,000	€2,000	€47,000
Quarryvale Community & Leisure Centre	€15,000	€0	€5,000	€20,000
Rathcoole Community Centre	€10,000	€0	€5,000	€15,000
Saggart Schoolhouse Community Centre	€15,000	€35,000	€5,000	€55,000
Brookfield Youth & Community Centre	€15,000	€0	€5,000	€20,000
St Aengus Community Centre	€15,000	€0	€0	€15,000
St. Mark's Youth & Family Centre	€15,000	€0	€0	€15,000
The Park Community Centre	€15,000	€25,000	€5,000	€45,000
The WEB Project/Whitechurch Old Library	€15,000	€0	€5,000	€20,000
Whitechurch Community & Youth Centre	€15,000	€0	€5,000	€20,000
<b>Totals</b>	<b>€370,000</b>	<b>€224,600</b>	<b>€106,000</b>	<b>€700,600</b>

***The report was NOTED***

**C1/0126**

**REPLIES, ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS & CORRESPONDENCE**

(a) Correspondence received from Wexford County Council

(b) Correspondence received from Laois County Council

(c) Correspondence received from Longford County Council

(d) Correspondence received from Donegal County Council

(e) Correspondence received from Limerick City County Council

(f) Correspondence received from the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality

(g) Correspondence received from Clare County Council

The correspondence was **NOTED**.

#### **M1/O126 Dogs Must Be Leashed Signage**

It was proposed by Councillor H. Farrell, seconded by Councillor E. Murphy.

That SDCC ensure that all Council-owned park entrances, and exits from dog parks, display very clear signage stating, 'Dogs Must Be Leashed' and include a prominently visible contact method for the Park Warden.

#### **REPORT:**

In accordance with SDCC Parks and Open Spaces Byelaws, all dogs must be kept on a leash and under effective control when in any public park or open space in the county. The Byelaws acknowledges that many dog owners want space to exercise their dogs off-leash, and this is only permitted within designated dog-run areas. The Council recognises the benefits of such areas to the animal health and wellbeing, and in doing so provides off-leash dog runs at the following locations

- Sean Walsh Park
- Jobstown Park
- Tymon Park
- Corkagh Park
- Griffeen Valley Park
- Ballymount Park,

Following the success to date, and level of demand, additional dog run locations are being considered.

In relation to the construction of Dog Runs, the entrance allows for a double gate secure entrance to help owners with dog control. Signage is provided at the entrance of each dog run, advising dog owners that dogs can only be unleashed once inside the second gate and at all other times the “dog must be leashed”. The level of compliance with owners using the dog run facilities is high. Due to the expansive nature of SDCC parks, it is not possible to install and maintain signs at all locations. However, additional signage is

provided at main park entrances, areas of high footfall and areas of concern, reminding dog owners of their responsibility.

Park Wardens currently patrol parks on a 7-day week basis. When Park Wardens witness dogs off leash, they will engage with dog owners requesting the dog to be leashed and highlight the dog run facilities provided. Due to the size of many of our parks and open spaces it is not always possible to have a Park Warden on hand for all incidents. In the event member of the public wish to report incidents relating to the control of dogs they can contact SDCC directly by phone and the issue will be reverted to the relevant Supervisor and Park Warden.

As part of the Parks Signage Programme, design and information being provided is currently being reviewed in line with the council branding. As part of the review, methods to allow members of the public easier access to report incidents and improve the council response is being examined.

*The Deputy Mayor, Councillor T. Gilligan, proposed and the members **AGREED** to suspend standing orders to finish this item.*

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors H. Farrell, E. Murphy and L. O'Toole.

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

*The motion was **AGREED**.*

## **M2/O126 Publicly funded Bus Shelters Are Designated as Exempted Development**

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

That this Council write to the Minister for Transport to request that legislation or regulations be amended so that the installation of publicly funded bus shelters is designated as exempted development thereby removing the requirement for a planning permission application.

### **REPORT:**

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

**Meeting ended at 19.02**

**MOTIONS NOT REACHED**

**M3/O126**

**Mercusor Trade Deal**

Proposed by Councillor L. de Courcy.

That this Council writes to all Irish MEPs asking them to vote against the Mercusor trade deal.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Mayor

Date: \_\_\_\_\_