

COMHAIRLE CONTAE ÁTHA CLIATH THEAS
SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL

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MEETING OF SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL

Monday, September 14, 2026

HEADED ITEM NO. 1

CONFIRMATION AND REAFFIRMATION OF MINUTES - FOR APPROVAL

Minutes of South Dublin County Council Meeting held on Monday 13 July 2026

PRESENT

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

OFFICIALS PRESENT

Chief Executive	C. Ward
Directors	R. Fitzgerald, J. Frehill, E. Burke, T. Walsh, E. Leech, T. Kavanagh, E. Clancy
County Architect	C. Harte
Senior Executive Officer	B. Shannon
Senior Staff Officer	K. McLoughlin
Staff Officer	P. Mens
Assistant Staff Officer	R. Murray

The Mayor, Councillor F. Timmons, presided

Apologies were received from Councillors P. Cosgrave, D. Donnelly, and Glen Moore.

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 Mayor, Councillor Francis Timmons, 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.

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

H1/0726 CONFIRMATION AND REAFFIRMATION OF MINUTES - FOR APPROVAL

Minutes of the June Council Meeting held on 8 June 2026, which had been circulated were submitted and **APPROVED** as a true record and signed in the proposition of Councillor F. Timmons and seconded by Councillor D. McManus and the members **AGREED**.

HI 1(a) Minutes for the 8 June 2026 Council Meeting

HI 1(b) Minutes for the 19 June Special Meeting to consider proposed variation No.2 South Dublin County Development Plan 2022-2028

HI 1(c) Minutes for the 24 June adjourned Special Meeting to consider proposed variation No.2 South Dublin County Development Plan 2022-2028

HI 1(d) Minutes for the 25 June 2026 Special Meeting of the County Council (S.140)

HI 1(e) Minutes for the 26 June Annual Meeting 2026

H2/0726 CO-OPTION FOLLOWING A TEMPORARY ABSENCE ON SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 19A OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001

Ms. E Clancy, Acting Director of Community presented the report.

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

HI 2(a) Co-option following a temporary absence

Section 19A of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended, makes provision for temporary absence and substitution of councillors in certain circumstances.

Councillor Mick Duff is temporarily absent with effect from 27 June 2026 in accordance with section 19A(1)(a)(i) of the Local Government Act 2001 (the Act) and he has notified the Meetings Administrator that he wishes nominate Ms. Samantha Duff as his

temporary substitute during his absence, as provided under section 19A(1)(b) of the Act.

Section 19A(3)(b)(ii) of the Act states that "the local authority shall have regard to the preferred choice (if any) of the member causing the temporary absence as to the person who should be the temporary substitute". Accordingly, the co-option of Ms. Samantha Duff is proposed for ratification in accordance with **Section 19A of the Local Government Act 2001**.

The report was **NOTED** and it was proposed by Councillor A. Edge and seconded by Councillor P. Kearns and **AGREED** that Samantha Duff be co-opted to South Dublin County Council as a temporary substitute for Councillor Mick Duff.

Councillors A. Edge, P. Kearns, D. McManus, N. Whelan, Y. Collins, E. Ó Broin and K. Keane congratulated Councillor S. Duff and welcomed her to the council.

Mr. C. Ward, Chief Executive welcomed Councillor S. Duff and wished her well.

Councillor S. Duff thanked the members for the warm welcome.

Vacancies on statutory bodies and committees

Vacancies exist on the following committees due to the temporary absence of Councillor Mick Duff with effect from 27 June 2026:

- Housing Strategic Policy Committee (Chair)
- Dublin and Dun Laoghaire Education and Training Board
- Dublin Bus/Luas Community Forum
- Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee
- South Dublin County Partnership
- South Western Regional Drugs Task Force
- Tallaght Drug and Alcohol Task Force

This is now before the Council for consideration.

The report was **NOTED**

Housing Strategic Policy Committee (Chair)

It was proposed by Councillor D. McManus, seconded by Councillor P. Kearns and **AGREED** that Councillor A. Edge be appointed as the chair of the Housing Strategic Policy Committee.

Dublin and Dun Laoghaire Education and Training Board
Dublin Bus/Luas Community Forum
Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee
South Dublin County Partnership
South Western Regional Drugs Task Force
Tallaght Drug and Alcohol Task Force

It was proposed by Councillor A. Smyth, seconded by Councillor A. Edge and **AGREED** that Councillor S. Duff fill the vacancies on the Dublin and Dun Laoghaire Education and Training Board, Dublin Bus/Luas Community Forum, Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee, South Dublin County Partnership, South Western Regional Drugs Task Force and Tallaght Drug and Alcohol Task Force.

H3/0726 REPORTS OF AREA COMMITTEES - FOR NOTING

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

H4/0726 STANDING COMMITTEES ORGANISATION, PROCEDURE & FINANCE - FOR APPROVAL

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

H5/0726 STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEES - FOR NOTING

HI 5 (a) Report of Joint ACGHL SCEI SPC 22 June 2026

HI 5 (b) (i) Minutes of Land Use, Planning and Transportation SPC meeting February 2026

HI 5 (b) (ii) Report of Land Use, Planning and Transportation SPC meeting May 2026

HI 5 (b) (iii) Report of Land Use, Planning and Transportation SPC meeting June 2026

The reports were **NOTED**.

H6/0626 REPORTS REQUESTED BY AREA COMMITTEES - FOR NOTING

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

QUESTIONS

It was proposed by Councillor F. Timmons and seconded by Councillor S. O'Hara and **RESOLVED**:

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

Q1/0726

Councillor W. Carey

To ask the Chief Executive whether he considers that South Dublin County Council has a statutory duty of care to introduce emergency traffic management measures to alleviate parking pressures in higher-density estates?

REPLY:

Under the Roads Act 1993, SDCC, as the road authority, are responsible for the maintenance and management of public roads within their functional area. The Act gives local authorities powers regarding roads and traffic management, but it does not impose an express obligation to implement particular parking or traffic measures in specific locations.

Under the Road Traffic Act 1994, a road authority may make parking bye-laws and regulate parking on public roads. The legislation uses discretionary language ("may"), giving councils powers rather than creating an automatic duty to act in a specific way.

In practice, a road authority may introduce measures such as parking restrictions, yellow lines, one-way systems, traffic calming measures and access controls and other traffic management arrangements.

Specific parking and traffic management concerns can be raised for consideration through the Customer Care system, Membersnet, Traffic Management Meetings and Traffic Correspondence Meetings. The Transport team assesses each request having regard to road safety, traffic operation, available resources and competing priorities. The Council has introduced and continues to introduce parking and traffic management measures where considered appropriate following assessment of the circumstances of each location.

It is important to clarify that the Council manages public roads that have been taken in charge. Private roads, or roads not yet taken in charge by the Council, must be managed by the developer, property owner or the legally constituted Owners' Management Company (OMC), as appropriate.

The Chief Executive recognises the challenges being experienced by residents in some newer residential developments arising from increased car ownership levels and the delayed delivery of major

public transport projects such as BusConnects and DART+ South West.

In response, the Planning and Transport teams are actively examining a range of measures to assist in managing parking demand. The Transport team is currently exploring the potential for the provision of sustainable transport hubs at suitable locations where this can be achieved in a safe, practical and sustainable manner. Consideration is also being given to opportunities to provide modest increases in parking provision in appropriate circumstances, having regard to site-specific constraints, planning policy objectives and the need to balance parking demand with sustainable transport objectives.

At planning application stage, the Planning and Transport team seeks to ensure that sustainable transport alternatives are incorporated within new developments. This includes the provision of car-sharing schemes, particularly within multi-unit residential developments, to reduce dependence on private car ownership and make more efficient use of available parking spaces.

The Planning and Transport team generally requires the submission and implementation of parking management plans for new residential developments. These plans are intended to ensure the fair and effective management of available parking resources and to maximise the efficient use of parking spaces within developments. In addition, the Planning and Transport teams will be initiating a review of parking and related policies following the adoption of Proposed Variation No. 2 to the South Dublin County Development Plan 2022–2028.

Accordingly, the Planning and Transport teams will continue to engage with the National Transport Authority, developers, residents and other relevant stakeholders on measures that can assist in addressing parking pressures while maintaining the Council's commitment to sustainable transport, compact growth and climate action objectives.

The Council must ensure that car parking provision complies with statutory planning guidance, including the Design Standards for Apartments, Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2025), together with the adopted parking standards contained in the South Dublin County Development Plan 2022–2028.

New developments are monitored to ensure compliance with granted planning permissions, including approved car parking provision and management arrangements. Where a development is not being carried out in accordance with its planning permission, the Council

may initiate enforcement proceedings under the Planning and Development Acts.

Q2/0726

Councillor W. Carey

To ask the Chief Executive if he will consider initiating discussions between the NTA, SDCC and developers of new estates to provide temporary parking overflow spaces on the basis that infrastructure such as Dart South West and Bus Connects have been delayed beyond 2030?

REPLY:

South Dublin County Council recognises the challenges being experienced by residents in some newer residential developments arising from increased car ownership levels and the delay in the delivery of major public transport projects such as BusConnects and DART+ South West.

In this regard, the Transport team is actively examining a range of interim measures to assist in managing parking demand while awaiting the delivery of enhanced public transport infrastructure. The Transport team are currently exploring the potential for the provision of sustainable transport hubs at suitable locations where this can be achieved in a safe and sustainable manner. The Transport team is also considering opportunities to provide modest increases in car parking provision within residential developments where appropriate as an interim measure, having regard to site-specific circumstances and planning policy objectives.

In parallel, the Planning team is seeking to ensure that sustainable transport alternatives are embedded within new developments at planning application stage. This includes the provision of car-sharing schemes, such as GoCar, particularly within multi-unit residential developments, to reduce dependence on private car ownership and make more efficient use of available parking spaces.

The Planning Department is generally requiring, at planning application stage, that detailed parking management plans are in place for residential developments. These plans are intended to ensure the fair and effective management of available parking spaces are being utilised to manage demand for parking provision equitably among residents. Furthermore, the Planning and Transport team will be initiating a car parking review based on the recent decision in relation to Proposed Variation no.2 to the County Development Plan.

Finally, SDCC continues to engage with the National Transport Authority regarding the delivery timelines for BusConnects, DART+ South West and increased bus services, with the objective of bringing forward these projects and providing residents with the high-quality public transport alternatives that will reduce reliance on private car use in the longer term.

Accordingly, the Planning and Transport team will continue discussions with relevant stakeholders, including the NTA and developers, on measures that can assist in addressing parking pressures while maintaining its commitment to sustainable transport and compact growth objectives.

Q3/0726 Councillor L. de Courcy

To ask the Chief Executive how the new Rural Housing Guidelines will impact residents of rural areas within South Dublin who have not been able to build or extend their property on their own land, and when will the changes be adopted within SDCC?

REPLY:

On 30 June 2026, the Government announced that it had: "agreed a proposed policy direction for rural housing, meaning that the *Draft Sustainable Rural and Gaeltacht Housing National Planning Statement*, prepared by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, can now move to environmental assessment under relevant EU Directives and associated public consultation, prior to its final approval by Government." The announcement also confirmed: "Under Section 25 of the 2024 Planning and Development Act, draft National Planning Statements are subject to approval by Government prior to issue by the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage. Until they are replaced by any final National Planning Statement, the 'Sustainable Rural Housing Guidelines for Planning Authorities', 2005 remain in effect."

The announcement and associated publication has no status in law or planning law or policy context. The current national and local planning policy context remains in effect until any forthcoming National Planning Statement is approved by Government in line with Section 25 of the Planning and Development Act, 2024. At that point, the planning authority will review the relevant NPS and consider the implications for local County Development Plan policy.

Q3/0726 Councillor L. de Courcy

To ask the Chief Executive what procedures are in place for vetting adult IPAS applicants who have been granted leave to stay and are applying to SDCC for social housing but come from countries where Gardai do not have access to police databases and where Police Clearance Certificates are not readily available?

REPLY:

The assessment of applications for social housing support is governed by the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2009, the Social Housing Assessment Regulations 2011, and subsequent amending regulations.

To qualify for social housing support, applicants must be at least 18 years of age, satisfy residency requirements, and have a legal right to reside in the State. Applicants must also demonstrate a housing need and meet the eligibility criteria set out in the legislation.

Applicants who have been granted permission to remain in the State, including those who previously resided in International Protection Accommodation Services (IPAS) accommodation, are assessed under the same legislative framework and eligibility criteria as all other applicants for social housing support.

In relation to anti-social behaviour checks, all applicants are assessed in accordance with Section 15 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1997 and our Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy, Policies and Procedures. Where an applicant is being considered for the allocation of a social housing tenancy, a formal request is made to An Garda Síochána for information relating to anti-social behaviour in respect of household members aged 18 years and over.

To be considered eligible for the allocation of a social housing property, applicants must satisfy the requirements of our Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy and maintain a clear record for the two-year period immediately preceding the acceptance of a housing offer. This requirement applies equally to all applicants irrespective of their country of origin.

Q5/0726 Councillor P. Holohan

To ask the Chief Executive to provide a report detailing the ratio of apartments to houses built in South Dublin County in the last ten years broken down by private and social housing?

REPLY:

In terms of general housing construction activity, the Council's data on progress since the adoption of the current South Dublin County Development Plan 2022-2028 is publicly available at: [Housing Supply Monitor - SDCC](#). This indicates that since Q3 2022 up to the end of Q2 2026 the following residential units have been completed:

Total Housing Units	Apartments and Duplexes	Houses
11,426	7,996	3,430

While the Council can provide data on its own housing delivery, the Council does not have data on the breakdown between social and affordable in private developments and generally does not distinguish between tenure for planning purposes. Planning permissions granted require social and affordable housing under Part V in the developments permitted. This is either 10% or 20% of the units proposed depending on when the land was acquired. However, following a grant of permission additional units may be provided as Part V by agreement, an AHB may acquire/deliver units or the Council or other state body may purchase/deliver units or a site which has planning permission.

REPLY:

Our current Housing Delivery Action Plan covers the period 2022–2026 and includes delivery through our direct build programme, including Traveller-specific accommodation, and through Approved Housing Bodies under the Capital Advance Leasing Facility (CALF) and Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS). Since 2022, a total of 3,168 social homes have been delivered, comprising:

- 2,498 apartments (including duplex units)
- 670 houses

This means that:

- Apartments accounted for 78.9% of all social homes delivered
- Houses accounted for 21.1% of all social homes delivered
- This equates to a ratio of approximately 1 house for every 3.7 apartments delivered

The predominance of apartment development reflects both national and regional planning policy objectives promoting compact growth and the efficient use of serviced land within existing urban areas. Apartment-led developments also enable the Council and its delivery partners to maximise housing output and respond more effectively to identified housing need.

The current composition of our social housing waiting list demonstrates a significant demand for smaller household accommodation, as set out below:

Bedroom Requirement	Households
1 Bed	3,323
2 Bed	1,965
3 Bed	900
4 Bed	131

These figures show that approximately 77% of households on the waiting list require one- or two-bedroom accommodation, which aligns with the type of housing being delivered through many apartment schemes.

We will continue to deliver housing through a range of mechanisms, with careful consideration given to geographical distribution, tenure mix, housing typology and the efficient use of public investment. The objective remains to maximise housing delivery while ensuring that the homes provided are aligned with identified housing need and support the principles of sustainable community development.

Q6/0726 Councillor P. Holohan

To ask the Chief Executive how many apartments units, both social and private, have been built since 2019 and how many parking spaces are available for each unit?

REPLY:

Our current Housing Delivery Action Plan covers the period 2022–2026 and includes delivery through our direct build programme and through Approved Housing Bodies under the Capital Advance Leasing Facility (CALF) and Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS). Since 2022, a total of 2,498 apartments which includes duplexes have been delivered as social homes.

The Housing Department does not maintain a centralised record of the number of parking spaces associated with each apartment unit delivered, as many social homes form part of larger mixed-tenure developments comprising social, affordable and private housing. Parking provision is determined at planning stage on a scheme-by-scheme basis and varies depending on the location, scale and nature of the development.

In terms of general housing construction activity, the Council's data on progress since the adoption of the current South Dublin County

Development Plan 2022-2028 is publicly available at: [Housing Supply Monitor - SDCC](#). This indicates that since Q3 2022 up to the end of Q2 2026 7,996 apartments and duplexes have been completed in the County. While the Council can provide data on its own housing delivery, the Council does not have data on the breakdown between social and affordable in private developments and generally does not distinguish between tenure for planning purposes.

The Council does not have readily available data for the number of parking spaces provided for each unit. This is informed by national and County Development Plan policy and determined on a case-by-case basis for each development, or at an area wide basis, depending on various factors including location, proximity to public transport and proximity to employment, social infrastructure and local services.

Q7/0726 Councillor P. Holohan

To ask the Chief Executive how much SDCC has spent on decarbonisation measures over the past 10 years?

REPLY:

Climate Leadership is identified as a core value in SDCC's Corporate Plan. This is reflected in the Council's approach to embedding decarbonisation across service delivery and capital projects, while working towards the statutory climate action targets for local authorities set out in the Climate Action Plan 2024-2029.

Decarbonisation refers to the reduction or elimination of greenhouse gas emissions, particularly carbon dioxide, from activities that contribute to climate change. It includes reducing reliance on fossil fuels such as coal, oil and gas and adopting cleaner, lower-carbon alternatives. Many decarbonisation measures are embedded in the design and delivery of SDCC projects and are therefore difficult to cost separately. For that reason, an overall expenditure figure cannot be provided with confidence. This response focuses on quantifiable expenditure on measures aimed at reducing fossil fuel consumption and does not include wider emissions reductions arising from energy management systems, public lighting retrofit, electric vehicle charging or green infrastructure initiatives.

In addition to direct Council expenditure, SDCC will continue to consider and, where appropriate, seek support from relevant national funding streams for eligible decarbonisation projects. These include the Climate Action Fund, SEAI Pathfinder supports for public sector retrofit and energy performance projects, the Community Climate Action Programme, and other SEAI supports for energy efficiency and renewable energy measures. Any such funding is subject to scheme

eligibility, application requirements, available allocations and confirmed grant approvals.

Fleet Decarbonisation

Since the first electric vehicle was purchased in 2018, SDCC has spent **€987,835.97** on battery electric vehicles. This figure includes VAT and vehicle wrapping costs. Battery electric vehicles reduce emissions when compared with traditional internal combustion engine vehicles and also offer lower running and maintenance costs over their operational lifetime.

In August 2024, SDCC commenced a trial involving 20 vehicles transitioning from road diesel to Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO). Following the success of the pilot, HVO was rolled out across the full road-going fleet between February 2025 and February 2026. Fuel prices for both HVO and diesel fluctuated during this period. The additional cost associated with using HVO, compared with conventional diesel, is estimated at **€34,650**.

This additional expenditure is considered a decarbonisation measure, as HVO can deliver lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions reductions of up to 90% compared with conventional diesel, thereby supporting the Council's climate action objectives.

Social Housing Energy Efficiency Retrofits Programme

The Social Housing Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme is primarily aimed at improving energy efficiency. However, as works are delivered as a package to improve Building Energy Ratings, they also reduce carbon emissions. For the period 2016–2026, the Housing Department incurred expenditure of **€18.73 million** under the programme to upgrade the Council's housing stock.

New SDCC Buildings

In terms of operational carbon, SDCC's new-build design approach focuses on 'fabric first' and prioritises creating a highly insulated and highly airtight enclosure to minimise the energy input required to maintain optimum levels of comfort for the occupants. This is then combined with heat from renewable sources such as heat pumps, and the installation of Solar PV where appropriate. Our new-build housing and community and non-residential buildings are all designed and constructed to NZEB standards, and to achieve an A BER rating. The costs associated with these aspects of the design are integrated into the overall contract costs and are not tracked separately as they are seen as the cost of compliance as opposed to specific non-standard measures.

SDCC are currently employing innovative construction approaches to minimise the level of embodied carbon in our new-build social housing.

Key Decarbonisation Projects

Tallaght District Heating Scheme

SDCC commenced operation of Phase 1 of the Tallaght District Heating Scheme, trading as Heatworks, in April 2023. Heatworks is Ireland's first publicly owned, not-for-profit energy company. The scheme is designed to deliver up to 10MW of heat and hot water to the Tallaght area and currently delivers approximately one third of this capacity to Phase 1 customers. The estimated carbon emissions reduction is approximately 1,500 tonnes per annum. Proposals are under way to complete Phase 2 of the network. The construction cost for Phase 1 of the Energy Centre and pipework was **€9.9 million**, funded through the Climate Action Fund, SEAI, Interreg NWE, customer connection fees and SDCC.

SDCC Energy Performance Contract

This project will progress energy efficiency and decarbonisation works across six SDCC buildings with the highest energy consumption. It is expected to reduce energy consumption by 50%, equivalent to approximately 4.3 million kWh per year, and reduce carbon emissions by approximately 50%, equivalent to approximately 885,000 kg CO₂ per year. The capital programme includes an allowance of **€8.5 million**, with 50% to be funded through the SEAI Pathfinder Grant. Expenditure to date is €14,450.

Active Travel Programme

Active Travel is a key element of SDCC's decarbonisation programme. By enabling a shift from private car use to walking, cycling and public transport, Active Travel projects reduce transport-related greenhouse gas emissions while also delivering health, accessibility and air-quality benefits. Investment to date includes approximately **€104 million** in NTA funding for Active Travel schemes, together with traffic management and public transport enhancement measures.

Q8/0726 Councillor P. Holohan

To ask the Chief Executive how much SDCC has spent on solar initiatives overall in the last 10 years?

REPLY:

The following summarises expenditure identified to date on solar initiatives over the past 10 years.

Where applicable, SDCC seeks to maximise external funding opportunities for solar PV and related renewable energy projects, including relevant SEAI supports and Community Climate Action Funding streams where projects are eligible. Confirmed grant income is reflected where available, while other potential supports will be considered as projects progress.

- **Arthurstown Landfill Solar PV Array:** Installation of a 200kW solar PV array to support aftercare treatment works at Arthurstown Landfill. Expenditure to date is €216,712, including VAT.
- **Arthurstown Landfill Solar Farm Feasibility Study:** Expenditure of €55,988.37 was incurred on a feasibility study for a large-scale solar farm at Arthurstown Landfill.
- **Solar Bins:** Expenditure to date, on the installation of solar bins is €618,360 in 2025 and 2026.
- **Solar PV on SDCC-Owned Buildings:** A contract was awarded to Lennon Solar in 2026, focusing on libraries and community centres. While there has been no expenditure to date, €213,924.80 has been invoiced for solar PV installation on five buildings. Grants of €95,271.90 have been obtained, leaving a net expenditure of €118,652.90.
- **Participatory Budgeting Projects:** CARP Killinarden was awarded €70,000 under the 'Have Your Say' initiative in 2024 for the installation of solar PV.

Please note that this is not an exhaustive list. A small number of buildings have solar panels installed where these were incorporated into wider capital or refurbishment projects. Work is under way to collate a register of solar PV installations on SDCC buildings, which will support more complete reporting on expenditure and installed capacity.

Q9/0726 **Councillor B. Lawlor**

To ask the Chief Executive to provide details of all funding drawn down by South Dublin County Council from the National Transport Authority (NTA) and Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) during 2025, including: the total amount drawn down from each body; the project or programme to which each drawdown relates; the amount initially granted to each project; the amount drawn down for each project or programme; and any awarded funding that had been transferred or had not been drawn down as of 31 December 2025.

REPLY:

In 2025, South Dublin County Council was granted a main funding allocation of €20 million from the National Transport Authority (NTA). This allocation was fully drawn down.

The funding supported the progression of schemes identified in *Cycle South Dublin*, the delivery of Safe Routes to School projects, and the construction of major active travel schemes. These included the Dodder Greenway Phase 5 at Firhouse Road and Butterfield Avenue, the D24 Neighbourhood Cycle Network, the Grand Canal to Lucan Urban Greenway, and the active travel elements of the Clonburris road network.

In addition to the main NTA allocation, €1 million was allocated in 2025 for traffic management improvements. This allocation was fully drawn down.

A further €500,000 was allocated under the Bus Stop Enhancement Programme (BSEP), which was introduced as a new programme category in 2025. This allocation was not fully drawn down, as NTA guidance on programme delivery was not issued until September 2025 and the necessary additional SDCC staffing resources were not available in time to deliver the full programme. Notwithstanding this, four enhanced bus stops were completed in 2025. The NTA has agreed to recoup €125,501 to SDCC in respect of these completed schemes.

In 2025, South Dublin County Council was granted a funding allocation of €3.025 million from Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII). Of this allocation, €2.767 million was drawn down. Full details are set out in Table 1.0 below.

The TII funding supported the progression of the Grand Canal Greenway from the 12th Lock to Hazelhatch Bridge, National Secondary and National Primary lighting projects, and ordinary and winter maintenance projects.

The allocation of €17,000 for Speed Limit Review Signs was not drawn down, as no speed limits were changed on National Roads during the year. Allocations of €45,000 for the N81 Brittas safety improvements scheme and €9,000 for the N81 pedestrian crossing projects were not fully drawn down, as these projects were at concept design stage.

Table 1.0: TII Allocations & Claims 2025

TII & Claims Jan - Dec 2025			
Projects	Overall Allocation	Overall Claim	Remaining funding
HD28 Pavement Renewals 2025 SD	€150,000.00	€ -	€150,000.00

NP Motorway MMarC Lighting 2025 SD (National Primary)	€631,434.00	€631,261.00	€173.00
NS Ordinary Maintenance 2025 SD (National Secondary)	€58,589.00	€31,721.00	€26,868.00
NS Winter Maintenance 2025 SD (National Secondary)	€32,047.00	€19,643.00	€12,404.00
NS Route Lighting 2025 SD (National Secondary)	€59,706.00	€55,574.00	€4,132.00
Local Authority (Support Winter Maintenance) 2025 SD (NP & NS)	€10,000.00	€10,000.00	€ -
Local Authority Support (Maintenance) 2025 SD (NP & NS)	€4,500.00	€ -	€4,500.00
SL Speed Limit Review Signs	€17,000.00	€ -	€17,000.00
N81 Junctions Pedestrian Facilities RSIS	€4,500.00	€ -	€4,500.00
N81 Tallaght Stadium Pedestrian Crossing RSIS	€4,500.00	€ -	€4,500.00
N81 SD Brittas RSI	€45,000.00	€12,602.00	€32,398.00
PSCI: Survey Support 2025 - SD	€8,000.00	€6,768.00	€1,232.00
Grand Canal - 12th Lock to Hazelhatch Bridge	€2,000,000.00	€1,999,997.00	€3.00
Total	€3,025,276.00	€2,767,566.00	€257,710.00

Q10/0726 Councillor D. Loftus

To ask the Chief Executive to clarify the Council's policy on the use of artificial intelligence in preparing written responses to councillors and TDs.

REPLY:

South Dublin County Council has adopted a formal policy governing the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools, which has been approved by the Management Team and incorporated into the Council's Information Systems / Electronic Communications Security and Acceptable Use Policy as the Council's authoritative framework for AI governance.

Under this policy, AI tools are regarded as assistive technologies only. They may support staff in research, drafting, summarisation and similar administrative tasks, but they do not replace professional judgement, accountability or decision-making by Council staff. The policy requires that all AI-generated or AI-assisted content be reviewed, validated and approved by an appropriate staff member before it is issued externally. Responsibility for the accuracy, completeness, appropriateness and legality of any correspondence remains with the Council officer concerned.

The policy specifically addresses communications with elected members and external stakeholders. Where AI is used to assist in preparing responses to councillors, TDs, members of the public or other external bodies, staff must ensure that the final response is accurate, clear, relevant, complete and consistent with approved Council policy positions. Any content that does not meet these standards cannot be issued.

The Council permits the use of approved enterprise AI tools only, currently including Microsoft Copilot where authorised. Access is granted on a managed basis, subject to managerial approval, role requirements, staff training and ongoing review. The use of public or consumer-grade AI services is prohibited.

The Council also operates governance, security and data protection controls around the use of AI. All use of AI must comply with the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), the Data Protection Acts and the Council's wider information security requirements. The Council continues to monitor and review its AI governance arrangements to ensure that AI is used responsibly, securely and transparently.

Accordingly, the Council is satisfied that, where staff are appropriately trained, authorised and operating within the Council's approved AI governance framework, generative AI may be used as a drafting and support tool in the preparation of responses to councillors and TDs. However, the content of any such response

remains subject to full human oversight, professional review and Council accountability prior to issue.

Q11/0726 Councillor D. Loftus

To ask the Chief Executive to report, in tabular form, the average waiting time for Council tenants on the transfer list before receiving an offer, broken down by 1, 2, 3 and 4-bedroom homes.

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.

As of 30th June 2026, a total of 35 offers of suitable accommodation have been made to eligible applicants on the housing transfer list. Of these, 23 offers were refused by applicants, while 12

households successfully transferred to one- and three-bedroom accommodation.

The table below details the average time on the waiting list categorised by area of preference and housing need:

Standard Transfer List	1 Bed	2 Bed	3 Bed	4 Bed
North of the Naas Road	-	-	6.8 years	-
South Naas Road	4 years	-	7.7 years	-

Q12/0726 Councillor D. Loftus

To ask the Chief Executive to provide a report, by LEA, on the number and location of public bins and bin sites available for public use.

REPLY:

The Council provides and maintains 850 public litter bins and 70 public recycling bring-bank sites across the County. Provision is focused on town centres, villages, district centres, parks, high-footfall public spaces and locations where there is an identified operational need. The Public Realm Section manages this network as part of the wider street cleansing, litter management and public realm maintenance service.

A countywide review of public bin provision is ongoing. As part of this work, the Council is mapping existing public bin stock and is assessing priority locations for the further roll-out of smart, solar-powered compactor litter bins. Where opportunities allow, collection routes will be optimised to take advantage of the benefits of the smart technology.

A revenue provision of €100,000 was made in 2026 to support additional litter bin provision, similar to the provision made in 2025. The 2026-2028 Capital Programme includes a total provision of €500,000 for the continued rollout of smart, solar-powered compactor bins. Currently the council operates 130 smart, solar-powered compactor bins (15% of total bin stock), with access to live data in relation to usage, maintenance and remaining available capacity, with the aim to improve capacity in urban centres and priority park locations, reduce the occurrence of overflowing bins, and support more efficient servicing through the use of real-time usage data. An additional 20 units will be installed by the end of 2026, with an additional 50 units to be installed in 2027.

Once the current capital programme roll-out is complete, it is expected that the Council will operate approximately 200 smart

solar-powered litter bins across the County (Q2 - 2027). These bins form part of the Council's wider approach to improving public realm maintenance, supporting cleaner public spaces and making more effective use of operational resources.

In addition to public litter bins, the Council manages a network of public recycling bring-bank sites across the County. More than 70 bring-bank sites are managed and maintained in the SDCC area, with new sites examined where required to support public recycling objectives. These locations are monitored as part of the Council's wider litter and waste enforcement activity, particularly where dumping or misuse arises. The current provision meets the Council's objective of providing glass recycling facilities within a 1km radius of residential properties throughout the county.

On completion of the current county wide review and survey, the council will map all locations and the information can be accessed by the public through the council web site. It is expected the information will be available on the council web site by September 2026.

Q13/0726 Councillor D. Loftus

To ask the Chief Executive for a report on the number of people currently on the social housing waiting list in the county broken down by areas of preference.

REPLY:

The table below shows the social housing list broken down by, accommodation need and area of preference at 30th June 2026;

Total Number of Applicants				6,263		
North of Naas Road Only		South of the Naas Road Only		North & South Naas Road		Totals
1 Bed	824	1 Bed	1,138	1 Bed	1,357	3,319
2 Bed	609	2 Bed	631	2 Bed	691	1,931
3 Bed	331	3 Bed	262	3 Bed	312	905
4 Bed	33	4 Bed	30	4 Bed	45	108
	1,797		2,061		2,405	6,263

Q14/0726 Councillor D. Loftus

To ask the Chief Executive for a report, in a tabular format, on the approximate number of years that people are waiting to be housed, on various waiting lists, including the standard, medical priority and homeless lists.

REPLY:

The tables below outline the average waiting time (in years) by property type and area of preference for allocations completed to 30th June 2026 from the standard housing list, homeless list and medical approval list:

Standard Housing List	1 Bed	2 Bed	3 Bed	4 Bed*
North of Naas Road	7.2	8	10.9	17.6
South of Naas Road	8.3	8	10.7	16.8

* Five newly constructed four-bedroom homes were allocated to eligible households through our standard housing list. Of these, four properties were allocated to households on the HAP Transfer List, while one property was allocated to a household on the RAS Fixed Transfer List. All successful applicants had accrued a significant period of waiting time on the housing list and were considered for allocation in accordance with our Allocation Scheme.

Homeless list	1 bed	2 bed	3 bed	4 bed
North of Naas Road	4	4.7	9.1	0
South of Naas Road	5	5.3	7.5	8.8

Medical list	1 bed	2 bed	3 bed	4 bed
North of Naas Road	3.2	4.93	11.1	11.4
South of Naas Road	8.4	5.3	8	8

Q15/0726 Councillor D. McManus

To ask the Chief Executive when the next review of SDCC parking bye-laws is due?

REPLY:

South Dublin County Councils (Control of Parking) Byelaws 2021 came into operation on 1st July 2021, replacing the previous byelaws of 2010.

There are no immediate plans for a review of the Control of Parking Byelaws, but once amendments are required, a review will be initiated by SDCC. The current byelaws remain in force until such time as they are amended, replaced, or repealed through a new statutory byelaw process.

Q16/0726 Councillor E. Ó Broin

To ask the Chief Executive how many years it will take to bring all of the SDCC Social Housing Stock to a BER of at least B2 at the current rate of renovation?

REPLY:

The Energy Efficiency Retrofitting Programme (EERP) was introduced in 2021 as part of the Government's commitment to improve the energy performance of Ireland's housing stock and reduce carbon emissions. The national target is to retrofit 36,500 social homes to a minimum B2 Building Energy Rating (BER) standard by 2030. The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) has set us a target of 125 homes for retrofit in 2026 and have allocated funding of €5 million, including project management fees, to support delivery. In addition to meeting this target, we are actively working to exceed it through investment from our Capital Programme. This additional funding will enable us to maximise the number of homes upgraded, delivering enhanced energy efficiency, improved living conditions for tenants, and contributing towards national retrofit and climate action objectives.

We have commenced a programme of periodic property inspections, whereby properties will be inspected on a five-year cyclical basis. The information gathered through these surveys will provide a comprehensive understanding of the condition and energy performance of the housing stock, enabling the identification and prioritisation of suitable properties for inclusion in the EERP Programme.

To date, 431 homes have undergone EERP works under the scheme, with a further 160 properties currently progressing through the pre-tender and contractor stages. In addition, 788 homes have benefited from window and door replacement works over the past four years,

with an additional 186 properties currently at contractor stage and scheduled for upgrade.

These investments are delivering significant improvements to the quality and sustainability of our housing stock.

Q17/0726 Councillor E. Ó Broin

To ask the Chief Executive whether power-washing of village footpaths is carried out periodically anywhere in the County.

REPLY:

Power-washing of village footpaths is not currently undertaken as part of a fixed countywide periodic programme. Footpath cleansing is managed through the Council's wider street cleansing and public realm maintenance service, with works prioritised having regard to footfall, surface condition, staining, safety considerations, operational need and available resources.

Routine cleansing in village and district centres is generally delivered through street sweeping, litter removal, bin servicing and targeted public realm maintenance. Where additional treatment is required, including the removal of heavy staining or build-up, individual locations are assessed by the Public Realm Section and addressed on a case-by-case basis. This assessment includes consideration of surface suitability, access requirements, drainage, property condition surveys (where adjacent to private properties, shop fronts, business entrances), health and safety requirements and available operational resources. In general, repeated power washing of paved surfaces is not recommended as it can lead to the removal of necessary jointing material between paving and cause damage building/shop fronts.

The Council continues to invest in improved village and public realm maintenance. Electric Green Machine sweepers are operational in Clondalkin and Lucan villages, supporting more sustainable local cleansing operations. In addition, the wider Public Realm Improvement Works programme includes village and public realm enhancements such as upgraded footpaths, improved park entrances, landscaping and related works.

With the continued improvement and upgrading of the council's public realm, such as village/district centres, council buildings and park entrances, alternate options to cleaning paved areas, such as steam, is currently being considered. Steam cleaning heats water to 150 degrees Celsius, with the benefit of using less water and minimises the use of detergents required for the removal of gum, oil

and food stains. Budget costings to complete such works on a once off and or periodic routine maintenance, are currently being sought.

Requests for enhanced cleansing at specific village locations will continue to be reviewed by the Public Realm Section and considered in the context of existing maintenance programmes, operational priorities and available budget.

Q18/0726 Councillor E. Ó Broin

To ask the Chief Executive how SDCC justifies allowing sports teams from outside of SDCC to book the county's public all weather football facilities?

REPLY:

Local clubs are given priority access to SDCC's 3G pitches through the annual winter allocation process. Each year, clubs are invited to apply for preferential access for the winter season, which runs from September to April, Monday to Friday. As part of this process, clubs are asked to identify their preferred days and times, and a winter allocation schedule is then prepared to provide successful applicants with recurring bookings for the allocated period.

While every effort is made to accommodate clubs' preferred times, specific time slots cannot be guaranteed due to the level of demand and the need to ensure fair and equitable access for all applicants. Since the opening of the 3G pitches, local clubs have been guaranteed a minimum allocation of one hour per week during the winter season.

Following confirmation of all allocated bookings, any remaining available slots are made available through the online booking system on a first-come, first-served basis. These residual slots may be booked by all clubs, including clubs from outside the South Dublin County Council administrative area. Clubs with existing allocations may also book additional pitch time, subject to availability.

Q19/0726 Councillor J. Sinnott

To ask the Chief Executive how many residents associations and voluntary groups are currently enrolled with the Council's Community Clean-Up Programme?

REPLY:

The Environmental Awareness Section supports residents' associations, community groups and youth groups that undertake local environmental improvement actions, including community clean-

ups, painting enhancement projects and minor community landscaping. This support is provided through SDCC's community-focused Social Credits Scheme, which recognises and rewards pro-environmental activity at local level.

In 2025, SDCC allocated over €62,000 to community groups through the Social Credits Scheme. From 1 January to 30 June 2026, the Environmental Awareness Section provided community clean-up materials to over 20 residents' associations and voluntary groups. Materials provided included anti-litter signage, litter pickers, gloves, refuse sacks, biodegradable leaf bags and gardening tools.

Once a community clean-up event is scheduled and notified to the Environmental Awareness Section, SDCC's Depot team arranges for the removal of bagged waste materials. In 2025, over 5,500 waste material collections were arranged in support of residents' associations and voluntary groups participating in the Clean-Up Programme. Engagement has increased in 2026, with over 2,800 collections arranged to date.

In addition, 107 community groups registered for the National Spring Clean campaign in April 2026, during which over 425 collections were arranged to support local clean-up activity. This represents an increase on 2025, when over 75 community groups registered across South Dublin County and SDCC facilitated the provision of clean-up equipment and the collection of gathered materials.

SDCC also supports community clean-up activity through the removal of bonfire materials, the provision of pollinator bulbs, and the allocation of passes to Ballymount Civic Amenity Site during the Halloween period. Over 250 passes were provided to community groups in 2025. The "Bulbs Not Bonfires" initiative is scheduled to continue, with the autumn campaign to roll out in October 2026.

The council continues to fund projects such as PURE (Protecting the Uplands & Rural Environment) which was established back in 2006 to combat illegal dumping/fly-tipping in the Dublin/Wicklow Uplands.

Q20/0726 Councillor J. Sinnott

To ask the Chief Executive if an update can be provided in relation to how Service Level Agreements with utility companies are progressing the removal of graffiti across the South Dublin County Council area.

REPLY:

SDCC continues to engage with ESB Networks regarding the removal of graffiti from utility-owned infrastructure throughout the County. Public Realm staff have been in contact with ESB Networks to develop an agreed approach to the treatment and removal of graffiti from ESB utility boxes, ensuring that any works can be carried out safely and with the agreement of the asset owner. Discussions in relation to these arrangements remain ongoing but progress has been slow. Once an agreed approach has been finalised with ESB Networks, it is intended that this will be reflected in an updated Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between both parties.

Following this process, the council will engage with other utility companies to review and update existing arrangements where appropriate, with the aim of improving the coordination and effectiveness of graffiti removal on utility-owned infrastructure across the County.

Q21/0726 Councillor J. Sinnott

To ask the Chief Executive to outline process for clubs to get access and permission to use a pitch that is managed by the Council?

REPLY:

South Dublin County Council maintains and allocates over 166 playing pitches annually for use by a wide range of sporting clubs, including Gaelic football, camogie, hurling, soccer, rugby, cricket, rounders, softball and athletics. These pitches support over 1,000 teams and are used by approximately 19,000 people across the County each week.

Playing pitches and sporting facilities are allocated by way of an annual licence. Allocations are subject to clubs complying with the relevant legislation, bye-laws, terms and conditions governing the use of SDCC parks and open spaces.

Clubs with existing allocations automatically receive an invitation to apply through the online pitch allocation system when the application window opens, generally at the end of June. Pitch allocations normally run from August to June. Clubs are required to submit an application form and supporting documentation, including insurance details and relevant league documentation, for review.

Clubs without an existing allocation may contact the Public Realm Section to be added to the waiting list for the next season. These clubs are then invited to apply at the start of the allocation process alongside existing clubs. SDCC actively manages pitch allocations

and, where appropriate, implements pitch-sharing arrangements to support fair and efficient use of available facilities.

Where pitches become available due to club closures or the development of new facilities, local clubs are invited to submit expressions of interest. In assessing applications for newly available pitches, the Council has regard to factors including club membership levels, existing allocations and demonstrated demand, in order to support a fair and equitable distribution of resources.

Q22/0726 Councillor J. Sinnott

To ask the Chief Executive if there are particular strategies or initiatives that the Council can take to tackle persistent fly tipping and illegal dumping in specific areas.

REPLY:

The Litter Management Plan 2026–2029, approved by the Members in April 2026, provides the strategic framework for tackling litter, fly-tipping and illegal dumping. The plan is action-based and structured around four key pillars:

- Litter Prevention and Control
- Community Engagement, Education and Environmental Awareness
- Public Realm Operations
- Litter and Waste Enforcement

Within this framework, a multi-strand approach is taken to persistent fly-tipping and illegal dumping, combining enforcement, deterrence, prevention, education and community engagement.

All reported or detected incidents of illegal dumping are investigated by the Litter Warden Service or Waste Enforcement Officers. Dumped material is examined for evidence and, where evidence is identified, enforcement action is pursued under the Litter Pollution Act 1997, as amended. In locations where repeated incidents occur, patrols are increased to assist with identifying offenders and gathering evidence. Reports also help to identify litter blackspots and target responses, including the deployment of temporary CCTV enforcement schemes where appropriate and in accordance with the Circular Economy Codes of Practice. Other targeted deterrent measures are used in known dumping hotspots, including audio device technologies at seven bottle bank locations.

Support also continues for the PURE initiative, which combats illegal dumping and fly-tipping in the Dublin and Wicklow uplands through environmental education, clean-up activity and enforcement support.

The PURE project has recorded a 46% decrease in illegal dumping in the Wicklow/Dublin uplands compared with 2015.

Enforcement activity is further guided by national environmental enforcement requirements. An annual Recommended Minimum Criteria for Environmental Inspections (RMCEI) plan is prepared and submitted to the Environmental Protection Agency, together with annual national enforcement priorities progress reports. The current national enforcement priorities for 2025–2027 include illegal waste activities, construction and demolition waste, household waste, commercial waste, plastics and producer responsibility initiatives. These priorities inform waste enforcement activity and support the targeting of resources to areas of greatest environmental risk.

A range of anti-dumping, awareness and prevention initiatives is delivered each year. These include projects supported through the annual Anti-Dumping Initiative scheme and the Anti-Litter and Anti-Graffiti Awareness Grant, including mattress amnesties, WEEE recycling days, Eco Week programmes, targeted clean-ups of persistent blackspots, the deployment of CCTV, drones and audio deterrents, and community-led repair, reuse and recycling projects. These measures support the shared objectives of prevention, abatement, enforcement and education.

Participation in the National Spring Clean campaign, in partnership with An Taisce, is complemented by environmental education initiatives such as “Zero Trace” and “Zero Waste”. During National Spring Clean Month 2026, more than 100 local community groups were provided with free clean-up kits and participated in environmental improvement activities. Through the Social Credits Scheme, community groups, residents' associations and youth organisations are supported and rewarded for undertaking community clean-ups and environmental enhancement projects. In 2025, more than €62,000 was allocated through the scheme. Support is also provided to the Green-Schools Programme and the Picker Pals programme, which promotes litter awareness and waste reduction among primary school children and their families.

The recently announced increase in the litter fine from €150 to €250 will be implemented from the 1st of September. Applications will also be made by SDCC for any funding available through the newly announced €250,000 fund for local authorities to help maintain public areas, parks, beaches and greenways.

Enforcement, targeted deterrence, community engagement and environmental education measures will continue to be implemented

within the framework of the Litter Management Plan 2026–2029 to address persistent fly-tipping and illegal dumping, and to support cleaner, safer and more sustainable communities.

Q23/0726 Councillor J. Spear

To ask the Chief Executive to outline the process by which a tenant can add an adult child to their tenancy, including the Council policy that governs this process.

REPLY:

Tenants in the first instance must obtain the prior written approval of the Council before an additional person can be added to their rent account. Where a tenant wishes to add an adult child or other household member, the following process applies:

- The existing tenant must complete an Inclusion on Rent Account Application Form in full. Incomplete applications will be returned.
- The written consent of the existing tenant(s) is required.
- We will assess the application, including whether the property is suitable to meet the housing needs of the enlarged household.
- Each application is considered on its individual merits and our decision will be confirmed in writing to the tenant(s).
- Tenants should note that they may be held responsible for the actions of any member of their household and that breaches of tenancy conditions may impact on the tenancy.
- Inclusion on a rent account does not confer any entitlement to succeed to the tenancy in the future. Any application for succession will be considered separately and in accordance with our Allocation Scheme and relevant legislation.

The **Inclusion on Rent Account Form** is available on our website and can be submitted, together with the required supporting documentation, to **hrent@sdublincoco.ie** for consideration.

The Council does not generally add adult children or grandchildren to an existing tenancy agreement where a valid tenancy agreement is already in place. In the event of the death of a tenant, a succession of tenancy application maybe considered, depending on the circumstances of the tenancy and subject to our assessment process. Where there is a joint tenancy, the surviving tenant may apply for succession of the tenancy.

Where a sole tenant has died, the tenancy may be considered for allocation to a spouse or partner, subject to an assessment of housing need. The person must have continuously resided in the dwelling as their normal place of residence and must have been included in the

household rent assessment for at least two years immediately prior to the tenant's death.

For any other family member, the person must have continuously resided in the dwelling as their normal place of residence and must have been included in the household rent assessment for at least five years immediately prior to the tenant's death.

Q24/0726 Councillor J. Spear

To ask the Chief Executive to outline the Council's succession policy when a sole tenant dies, including the process adult children or other family members must follow to apply to succeed the tenancy.

REPLY:

The eligibility requirements and criteria governing the succession of a social housing tenancy are set out in the Council's Allocation Scheme.

When a council tenant who is a sole tenant dies or is required to surrender the tenancy for reasons beyond their control (for example, long term hospitalisation or imprisonment) it may be possible to allocate the tenancy to a member of the tenant's household in the following circumstances and at the discretion of the housing authority:

Spouse/Partner:

The tenancy may be allocated to a surviving spouse/partner provided:

- Such spouse/partner has been resident in the dwelling for a continuous period of at least two years prior to the death of the tenant and
- has been included in the assessment for rent purposes for that period

Household member:

The tenancy may be granted to the next member of the household, provided that the person has continued to reside in the house as their normal place of residence continuously for a minimum of five years up to and including the time of bereavement/surrender and has been assessed for rent purposes for that period.

Where there are two or more surviving members of the family who meeting the criteria above, a joint tenancy may be granted by the Council.

Under some circumstances where such an allocation is being considered, the housing authority may require the household to move to another property if it considers the property to be too large or the property has been designed or adapted for the use of someone with a disability who no longer resides in the property. No such allocation will be considered where the property has been designated as an Older Persons Dwelling (and where the person applying for the tenancy is not an elderly person).

A formal written application must be made to the council within 3 months of the death or departure of the tenant and be accompanied by supporting evidence and information to prove their entitlement for consideration under this provision, including having been assessed for rent purposes for the requisite time up to and including the time of bereavement/surrender.

Q25/0726 Councillor F. Timmons

To ask the Chief Executive for a detailed report into how SDCC will address the need for an additional 3rd level college in the County?

REPLY:

SDCC recognises the significant role that third-level education plays in supporting economic development, skills development, research, innovation, and social inclusion. The continued population growth within South Dublin County, together with the expansion of key employment sectors, has increased demand for accessible higher education opportunities for residents and businesses alike.

While the establishment and funding of third-level institutions is a matter for the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science and the Higher Education Authority, the Council supports the enhancement of educational infrastructure within the County through its strategic planning, economic development and place-making functions, and maintains ongoing engagement with the Department to advocate for and progress higher education opportunities in the County.

SDCC's planning framework, including our County Development Plan, supports the provision of educational facilities at all levels and seeks to facilitate sustainable development within designated growth areas. Through the planning process, the Council can identify and protect suitable lands for community, educational and institutional uses where appropriate and can work with relevant stakeholders to support future educational investment opportunities.

SDCC's planning framework, including our County Development Plan, supports the provision of educational facilities at all levels and seeks to facilitate sustainable development within designated growth areas. Through the planning process, the Council can identify and protect suitable lands for community, educational and institutional uses where appropriate and can work with relevant stakeholders to support future educational investment opportunities.

Education use is permitted in principle within lands zoned RES-N, REGEN and Mixed Use (TC, DC, VC and LC), and is Open for Consideration on lands zoned RES, MRC, OS, RU and High Amenity (HA-DM, HA-LV and HA-DV). The County Development Plan 2022–2028 also contains policies and objectives that support the development and ongoing provision of higher and further education facilities throughout the County. In particular, COS9 Objective 8 for the Naas Road (City Edge) area seeks “to investigate with the relevant educational providers, the need for a new university campus within the Naas Road area and to support, promote and facilitate a South Dublin County University Campus within the Naas Road Framework Plan, or any superseding plan, should such a need be identified.” The Adamstown South & West Strategic Development Area (SDA) also provides an opportunity for third level.

The Council continues to engage with a range of education providers, including Technological University Dublin (Tallaght Campus), Tallaght Training Centre (DDLETB), Tallaght University Hospital (TUH) who have a centre for Learning and Development (CLD) and other further education providers and enterprise stakeholders, to support the development of education, skills and innovation ecosystems within the County. The ongoing development of the Tallaght Innovation Quarter and other strategic employment locations also presents opportunities for enhanced collaboration between academia, industry and local government.

Any proposal for the establishment of an additional third-level institution within South Dublin County would require consideration at national policy level by the relevant Government Departments and agencies. However, should such an opportunity arise, SDCC would proactively engage with all relevant stakeholders to identify suitable locations, facilitate the planning process and support the delivery of the necessary infrastructure required to accommodate such a development.

SDCC will continue to advocate for investment in higher and further education facilities across the County and to support policies and initiatives that improve access to education, skills development, and

lifelong learning opportunities for all residents of South Dublin County.

Q26/0726 Councillor E. Timmons

To ask the Chief Executive for a detailed report into how SDCC will address the need for additional performance / theatre space in the County?

REPLY:

SDCC is addressing the need for additional performance and theatre space through a combination of new cultural infrastructure projects, the enhancement of existing venues, and the development of a countywide Arts Infrastructure Strategy to guide future investment. These measures are intended to increase performance capacity, improve access to cultural facilities, and support a wider range of artistic activity across the county.

Existing performance and theatre facilities within the county include the Civic Theatre and Studio at Rua Red, Tallaght Theatre, Áras Chrónáin, Rathfarnham Castle, the Pearse Museum, the grounds of Lucan House, Orlagh House, and the Park House Café and Hub at Corkagh Park.

Current projects that will further expand performance and theatre infrastructure include the proposed theatre at the Clonburris Arts Centre, incorporating performance and rehearsal spaces, together with the refurbishment of Lucan House and enhancement of the outdoor auditorium within its grounds. Budget provision has also been made to carry out a feasibility study on an extension to the Civic Theatre, and an invitation to submit tenders for this study has issued.

Work on an Arts Infrastructure Strategy is nearing completion, and a draft will be available for review. The strategy will provide a long-term framework for identifying infrastructure needs and guiding the planning, development and management of arts facilities across South Dublin County.

The development of a dedicated music centre, together with facilities for circus arts, street performance and large-scale spectacle, has also been identified as a longer-term ambition for the City Edge area.

To support outdoor cultural programming, electrical power and data connections have been incorporated into a number of public spaces, including parks and Parthalán Place, facilitating a wider range of outdoor performances and events.

Q27/0726 Councillor F. Timmons

To ask the Chief Executive for a detailed report into what measures SDCC will take to ensure that paved footpaths, village plazas and stone street furniture, particularly in Architectural Conservation Areas, are power-washed and cleaned.

REPLY:

Power-washing of paved footpaths, village plazas and stone street furniture, particularly in Architectural Conservation is not currently undertaken as part of a fixed countywide periodic programme. Footpath cleansing is managed through the Council's wider street cleansing and public realm maintenance service, with works prioritised having regard to footfall, surface condition, staining, safety considerations, operational need and available resources.

Routine cleansing in village and district centres is generally delivered through street sweeping, litter removal, bin servicing and targeted public realm maintenance. Where additional treatment is required, including the removal of heavy staining or build-up, individual locations are assessed by the Public Realm Section and addressed on a case-by-case basis. This assessment includes consideration of surface suitability, access requirements, drainage, property condition surveys (where adjacent to private properties, shop fronts, business entrances), health and safety requirements and available operational resources. In general, repeated power washing of paved surfaces is not recommended as it can lead to the removal of necessary jointing material between paving and cause damage building/shop fronts.

The Council continues to invest in improved village and public realm maintenance. Electric Green Machine sweepers are operational in Clondalkin and Lucan villages, supporting more sustainable local cleansing operations. In addition, the wider Public Realm Improvement Works programme includes village and public realm enhancements such as upgraded footpaths, improved park entrances, landscaping and related works.

With the continued improvement and upgrading of the council's public realm, such as village/district centres, council buildings and park entrances, alternate options to cleaning paved areas, such as steam, is currently being considered. Steam cleaning heats water to 150 degrees Celsius, with the benefit of using less water and minimises the use of detergents required for the removal of gum, oil and food stains. Budget costings to complete such works on a once off and or periodic routine maintenance, are currently being sought.

Requests for enhanced cleansing at specific village locations will continue to be reviewed by the Public Realm Section and considered in the context of existing maintenance programmes, operational priorities and available budget.

Q28/0726 Councillor F. Timmons

To ask the Chief Executive to provide a detailed report on the length of time applicants must be resident in the country and/or county before applying for social housing, and the proof of residency required.

REPLY:

The assessment of applications for social housing support is governed by the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2009, the Social Housing Assessment Regulations 2011, and subsequent amending regulations.

To qualify for social housing support, applicants must demonstrate a housing need and meet the eligibility criteria set out in the legislation.

The following considerations will apply where applications are received by the Council for inclusion in the assessment of housing needs -

1. Eligibility Applicants must be aged 18 or over and must have long term permission to reside in the State or otherwise comply with the requirements of the State for residence.
2. Applicants must reside in the functional area of South Dublin County Council. Applicants residing outside the functional area of the Council may be included to such extent that (a) they have a local connection to the functional area or (b) at the Council's discretion
 1. Local Area Connection
 - Member of household has resided for a continuous five-year period at any time in the area or
 - Employment of any member of household is in the area or is located within 15 kilometres of the area or
 - A household member is in full-time education in any university, college, school or other education establishment in the area or
 - A household member with enduring physical, sensory, mental health or intellectual impairment is attending a related educational or medical establishment in the area that has facilities or services specifically related to such impairment
 - A relative of any household member lives in the area and has lived here for a minimum of two years.

- Non-EEA citizens must have Garda National Immigration Bureau card (Green Card) with a Stamp 4 status – 5 years reckonable residency is required, this can be made up from a stamp 1, 3, 4 or 5 – this can be historical or extending to a future date.
- Asylum Seekers are not eligible for social housing support.
- If the applicant is a “former asylum seeker”, who has been given “leave to remain” and a Stamp 4, the application may be accepted for assessment regardless of prior length of residence, provided the applicant has
 - A current Stamp 4 in their passport
 - A letter from the Department of Justice giving leave to remain on foot of the applicant’s representations under section 3 of the Immigration Act, 1999.
- EEA citizens must be:-
 - Employed/self-employed
 - Where not currently working/employed it is because:-
 - They are temporarily unable to work because of illness/accident;
 - They are recorded as involuntarily unemployed after having been employed for longer than a year

Q29/0726 Councillor F. Timmons

To ask the Chief Executive to provide a report on recent rent increases, including the basis on which they are considered reasonable and fair, and how they compare with rents charged by other local authorities.

REPLY:

Each local authority 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 however, 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 now and into the future.

The Housing Strategic Policy Committee was consulted on proposed amendments to the scheme at meetings held on 11th November 2025, 12th February 2026 and 14th May 2026. A comparison of SDCC rents to those charged by other local authorities is available in [Housing SPC Rents Report May 2026](#).

The amendments to rents have been informed by a detailed review of tenant household incomes, local and national rents, and future

housing maintenance requirements arising from ongoing social housing stock condition surveys.

In particular, the recent Local Government Audit Service [VFM Report on Local Authorities Differential Rent Schemes](#) demonstrated that, despite our higher maintenance costs and increasing future requirements, rents charged by SDCC were generally lowest of all local authorities nationally across a range of different household sizes and incomes.

Data from the LGAS report shows that during 2025 some households in South Dublin were being charged rents that were an average of 55% less than similar households in similar properties in other Dublin local authority areas which is clearly not sustainable or equitable.

Separately, local councillors have highlighted some instances where households with incomes in excess of social housing thresholds were paying a disproportionately higher percentage of their income on rent which equally needed to be addressed.

The revised rent scheme, under which tenant household incomes provides consistency across all households with updated rents of up to 12.5% of net household income, ensuring that rents correspond with tenants' ability to pay. Average rents under the new scheme are expected to be approximately €346 per month for households in social homes, an increase of 3.7%.

The scheme also features new measures to ensure that rents remain fair, proportionate and reasonable, including:

- Maximum €40 weekly charge on income from subsidiary earners
- Removal of €3 fixed weekly additional charge
- €10 weekly rent discount for persons age aged 65+ with state pension income only
- Weekly discount of €2 for each dependent child
- Income from children under the age of 18 is now excluded from rent calculations

Adjustments to the council's rental income are essential to fund projected investment of over €49m for planned maintenance work in our current three-year capital programme. This work will enhance living conditions and home energy efficiency for tenants while being sustainably funded from equitable and affordable rents.

Q30/0726 [Councillor N. Whelan](#)

To ask the Chief Executive to outline the role of the council and the process involved in providing housing for adults with intellectual disabilities.

REPLY:

The Council plays an important role in supporting the housing needs of adults with intellectual disabilities through the assessment of housing need, the allocation of social housing, and the facilitation of appropriate accommodation options in partnership with key stakeholders. The Council works collaboratively with Approved Housing Bodies (AHBs), the Health Service Executive (HSE), and disability service providers to help deliver housing solutions that meet the varying needs of individuals and promote independent living within the community.

Adults with intellectual disabilities who require social housing support must apply through our social housing application process. Applications are assessed in accordance with the provisions of the Social Housing Assessment Regulations and relevant housing legislation. Where an applicant has a disability, medical condition, or specific housing requirement associated with their intellectual disability, they may submit a HDM Form 1 together with supporting documentation from relevant healthcare professionals or service providers. The information provided is assessed to establish the extent to which the applicant's housing needs are impacted by their medical or disability-related circumstances and to determine eligibility for inclusion on the medical housing list.

Once approved for social housing support, applicants may be considered for a range of housing options, including local authority housing, accommodation provided by Approved Housing Bodies, and, where appropriate, housing initiatives for individuals with support needs. Housing allocations are made in accordance with our Allocation Scheme and are subject to factors such as housing need, household composition, availability of suitable accommodation, and any approved medical or disability-related requirements.

The delivery of housing for adults with intellectual disabilities involves a multi-agency approach. While the Council is responsible for assessing housing need and facilitating access to suitable accommodation, responsibility for the assessment, provision, funding and coordination of healthcare, personal care and support services rests with the HSE and/or the relevant disability service provider. Effective collaboration between all parties is essential to ensuring that accommodation is appropriately matched with the level of support required by the individual.

We continue to engage with the HSE, Approved Housing Bodies, voluntary organisations and disability service providers to support the development of housing solutions that enable adults with intellectual disabilities to live as independently as possible and participate fully in their communities.

Q31/0726 **Councillor N. Whelan**

To ask the Chief Executive to provide an update on how many adults with intellectual disabilities are waiting in housing, to include the length of time waiting?

REPLY:

In accordance with the National Housing Strategy for Disabled People 2022–2027, SDCC operates a medical housing list to support applicants whose housing needs are impacted by a medical condition or disability, including individuals with intellectual disabilities. The medical housing list ensures that assessed housing needs arising from disability-related circumstances are appropriately considered as part of our social housing allocation framework.

There are currently 268 applicants/households on the Standard Medical List and a further 257 applicants/households on the Supported Living Medical List who have been granted medical approval on the basis of an intellectual disability, sensory disability, or mental health condition.

The following table details the average waiting times for new allocations and number of allocations for households, with medical approval from 1st January 2026 to 30th June 2026, categorised by housing need:

Housing Need	No. of Allocations	Average Number of years on list
1 Bed	9	5.5 years
2 bed	9	5 years
3 bed	11	9.2 years
4 Bed	4	10.5 years
Total	33	

Q32/0726 Councillor N. Whelan

To ask the Chief Executive to provide details of how many homes were provided and allocated for adults with intellectual disabilities in the county since June 2024?

REPLY:

The table below details the average waiting times and number of allocations for applicants/households with medical approval since June 2024, categorised by housing need:

Medical Allocations 1st June 2024 - 30th June 2026	1st June - 31st December 2024	2025	1st January - 30th June 2026	TOTAL
1 Bed	35	24	8	67
2 bed	28	34	9	71
3 bed	13	19	11	43
4 Bed	3	0	5	8
Total	79	77	33	189

Q33/0726 Councillor N. Whelan

To ask the Chief Executive to provide a report on how many notices of eviction were issued to SDCC tenants since June 2024, broken down by LEA and including reason for eviction?

REPLY:

Estate Management – Housing Department

Our Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy applies to all local authority tenants. Anti-social behaviour is defined under the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2014 and includes drug-related activity, violence, intimidation, harassment, threats, serious obstruction, persistent nuisance, and damage to property.

We adopt a progressive approach to addressing anti-social behaviour. Complaints are investigated in conjunction with An Garda Síochána where appropriate, and every effort is made to identify those responsible. Where a tenant or household member is found to be involved, a range of interventions may be initiated, including interviews, written warnings and ongoing monitoring. Warnings remain

active for a period of 12 months, and further breaches during this period may result in escalation to legal proceedings, including applications for exclusion or possession orders.

Since June 2024, five repossession orders have been granted under Section 12 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2014 for serious breaches of tenancy arising from anti-social behaviour. The breakdown by Local Electoral Area is as follows:

- Tallaght South: 4
- Tallaght Central: 1

Debt Management Unit – Finance Department

The Debt Management Unit (DMU) works proactively with tenants experiencing rent arrears and financial difficulties. The primary objective is to sustain tenancies through early intervention, engagement and the agreement of affordable repayment arrangements. These measures regularly result in a reduction of arrears and the avoidance of legal action.

Where tenants do not engage with the Council's efforts to resolve arrears, cases may progress through a formal legal process. Since June 2024, the DMU has issued 207 Tenancy Warning Letters to tenants who failed to engage in addressing their rent arrears.

As a result of continued engagement by the DMU, 62 tenancies have either reduced or fully cleared their arrears through repayment arrangements or full settlement. A further 139 cases remain under active management and monitoring, with legal proceedings ongoing where necessary.

Regrettably, six tenancies have been terminated since June 2024 due to persistent non-engagement and escalating rent arrears. The breakdown by Local Electoral Area is as follows:

- Tallaght South: 3
- Firhouse–Bohernabreena: 1
- Clondalkin: 1
- Palmerstown–Fonthill: 1

While the termination of a tenancy is always a matter of last resort, the Council has a responsibility to enforce tenancy conditions and safeguard the effective management of its housing stock. Every effort is made to support tenants in maintaining their tenancy through early intervention, engagement and appropriate supports.

DECLARATION OF ROADS TO BE MADE PUBLIC ROADS

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

(a) (i) Report on TIC of Adamstown Boulevard (part of), Adamstown, Co. Dublin

(a) (ii) Adamstown Boulevard (part of) TIC Map

(a) (iii) Adamstown Boulevard (part of) Roads Schedule

(b) (i) Report on TIC of Aderrig Park Avenue and Airlie Park Road, Adamstown, Co. Dublin

(b) (ii) Aderrig Park Avenue and Airlie Park Road TIC Map

(b) (iii) Aderrig Park Avenue and Airlie Park Road Roads Schedule.

(c) (i) Report on TIC of Adamstown Way, Adamstown, Co. Dublin

(c) (ii) Adamstown Way TIC Map

(c) (iii) Adamstown Way Roads Schedule

(d) (i) Report on TIC of Palmerstown Way, Clondalkin, Dublin 22

(d) (ii) Palmerstown Way TIC Map

(d) (iii) Palmerstown Way, Clondalkin Roads Schedule

It was proposed by Councillor F. Timmons, seconded by Councillor L. O'Toole and **AGREED:**

Take in charge the roads detailed in the roads schedule and the infrastructure detailed in the taking in charge maps of Adamstown Boulevard (part of), Adamstown, Co. Dublin, Aderrig Park Avenue and Airlie Park Road, Adamstown, Co. Dublin, Adamstown Way, Adamstown, Co. Dublin and Palmerstown Way, Clondalkin, Dublin 22 in accordance with the provisions of Section 11 of the Roads Act, 1993 and in accordance with the provisions of Section 180 of the Planning & Development Act 2000 as amended.

H8/0726 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.**

HI 8(a)(i) Report - 54 Lealand Avenue, Clondalkin, Dublin 22

HI 8(a)(ii) Map - 54 Lealand Avenue, Clondalkin, Dublin 22

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
54 Lealand Avenue, Clondalkin, Dublin 22	Piotr Mucha and Hanna Mucha	€185.26

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 F. Timmons seconded by Councillor S. O'Hara and **RESOLVED:**

“That the disposal of fee simple in **54** Lealand Avenue, Clondalkin, Dublin 22 be **ADOPTED** and **APPROVED.**

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 8(b)(i) Report - LD 1652 - Ballyowen Park Clubhouse and All-Weather Pitch Leases

HI 8(b)(ii) Map LR-10-26 - LD 1652 - Ballyowen Park Clubhouse and All-Weather Pitch Leases

HI 8(b)(iii) Map LR-11-26 - LD 1652 - Ballyowen Park Clubhouse and All-Weather Pitch Leases

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors D. Loftus, T. McDonald, W. Carey and R. McMahon with queries on local priority, FAI, block booking and upgrades.

Mr. J. Frehill, Director of Economic Development and Ms. T. Walsh, Director of Climate Action, responded to the members.

The report was **NOTED** and it was proposed by Councillor F. Timmons and seconded by Councillor D. Loftus and **RESOLVED:**

(i) the surrender by South Dublin Football League Limited of its existing 25-year lease of the All-Weather Pitch at Ballyowen Park and the grant of a new 25-year lease of same to Dublin and District Schoolboys/Girls League Limited, as outlined in red on Drawing LR/10/26, and (ii) the consent by South Dublin County Council to the assignment by South Dublin Football League Limited of its leasehold interest in the Clubhouse Building held under the Lease dated 14th December 2005 to Dublin and District Schoolboys/Girls League Limited, in accordance with Drawing No. LR/11/26.

These are in accordance with Section 211 & 212 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 and subject to the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001.

H9/0726

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 - July 2026

HI 9 (b) Statistics Report - June 2026

HI 9 (c) Finance Report

The reports were **NOTED**.

H10/0726 CAPITAL PROGRAMME UPDATE - 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 10 (a) Capital Programme update July 2026

HI 10 (b) Housing Delivery Report Q2

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors Y. Collins, M. Johansson, E. Ó Broin and H. Farrell with queries on dog runs, noise and dust complaints, promenade and lane access.

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

The reports were **NOTED**.

H11/0726 VACANCY ON THE ASSOCIATION OF IRISH LOCAL GOVERNMENT (AILG) - FOR APPROVAL

HI 11 Vacancy on AILG

A vacancy exists on the Association of Irish Local Government (AILG) following the resignation of Councillor B. Lawlor It is a matter for the Council to nominate a replacement to fill the vacancy.

This is now before the Council for consideration.

It was proposed by Councillor D. McManus, seconded by Councillor S. O'Hara and **AGREED** that Councillor Baby Pereppadan fill the vacancy on the Association of Irish Local Government.

H12/0726 VACANCY ON THE SOCIAL, COMMUNITY, EQUALITY & INTEGRATION STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE - FOR APPROVAL

HI 12 Vacancy on Social, Community, Equality & Integration SPC

A vacancy exists on the Social, Community, Equality & Integration SPC following the resignation of Councillor A. Edge. It is a matter for the Council to nominate a replacement to fill the vacancy.

This is now before the Council for consideration

It was proposed by Councillor A. Edge and seconded by Councillor H. Farrell and **AGREED** that Councillor Samantha Duff fill the vacancy on the Social, Community, Equality and Integration SPC.

H13/0726 CITY EDGE PROPOSED VARIATION - FOR APPROVAL

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

[HI 13\(a\) CE Report on Draft City Edge SURF Consultation - Proposed Variation no.3](#)

[HI 13\(b\) Presentation on CE Report](#)

Councillor L. Dunne proposed four resolutions to amend the Chief Executive's report; the proposals were seconded by Councillor W. Carey and **CONSIDERED**

1. Insert a new Strategic Objective as follows:

The Strategic Urban Regeneration Framework shall include a minimum urban tree canopy target for each Priority Development Area, together with quantified street tree planting requirements, the protection of existing mature trees where feasible, native species planting targets, and a monitoring framework to ensure that tree canopy delivery contributes to climate mitigation, urban cooling, biodiversity enhancement and adaptation to climate change throughout the lifetime of the development.

Following input from Councillor L. Dunne, Mr. E. Burke, Director of Planning and Transport responded to the member.

The amendment was **AGREED**.

2. Safe Routes to School: All proposed school sites shall be connected by direct, safe and universally accessible pedestrian and cycle routes linking surrounding residential areas, public transport, parks and community facilities. A Safe Routes to School Strategy shall be submitted as part of the first planning application relating to each school site, demonstrating compliance with Universal Design principles, active travel objectives and the delivery of the required infrastructure in tandem with, or in advance of, the occupation of the school and associated residential development.

The amendment was **AGREED**.

3. Insert a new Strategic Objective as follows: A comprehensive Parking Strategy shall be prepared for each Priority Development Area as part of the first planning application, demonstrating that parking provision supports sustainable travel while meeting the needs of residents, businesses and visitors. The Strategy shall include measures for the phased delivery of parking, electric vehicle charging infrastructure, secure and sheltered cycle parking, accessible parking spaces, and parking management measures to prevent overspill parking and protect residential amenity.

Following input from Councillor L. Dunne, Mr. E Burke, Director of Planning and Transport responded indicating that the proposed amendment could undermine the strategy already set out on the proposed variation in relation to parking.

It was proposed by Councillor L. Dunne, seconded by Councillor R. McMahon and **AGREED** by the members to **WITHDRAW** the resolution.

4. Insert an additional policy objective under the Part 5 housing requirements for the City Edge area: It is an objective of this Council to ensure that all social housing units delivered through Part 5 agreements within the City Edge area are fully integrated within residential developments and that residents have equal and unrestricted access to all communal areas, facilities, amenities, and shared spaces provided as part of the development.

No separate arrangements, restrictions, management practices, or service provisions shall be permitted that result in Part 5 residents being excluded from, or treated differently in relation to, the use of communal facilities or shared spaces. All residential developments shall be designed and managed to promote inclusive communities, social integration, and equality of access for all residents.

Following input from Councillor L. Dunne, Mr. E. Burke, Director of Planning and Transport responded to the member stating that the second paragraph of the resolution proposed could impact on housing delivery.

It was proposed by A. Edge, seconded by Councillor D. Loftus and **AGREED** by the members to delete the second paragraph from the proposed resolution:

Insert an additional policy objective under the Part 5 housing requirements for the City Edge area: It is an objective of this

Council to ensure that all social housing units delivered through Part 5 agreements within the City Edge area are fully integrated within residential developments and that residents have equal and unrestricted access to all communal areas, facilities, amenities, and shared spaces provided as part of the development.

~~No separate arrangements, restrictions, management practices, or service provisions shall be permitted that result in Part 5 residents being excluded from, or treated differently in relation to, the use of communal facilities or shared spaces. All residential developments shall be designed and managed to promote inclusive communities, social integration, and equality of access for all residents.~~

A further amendment was proposed by R. McMahon and seconded by Councillor L. DeCourcy to remove the words “and unrestricted”.

It is an objective of this Council to ensure that all social housing units delivered through Part 5 agreements within the City Edge area are fully integrated within residential developments and that residents have equal ~~and unrestricted~~ access to all communal areas, facilities, amenities, and shared spaces provided as part of the development.

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillor R. McMahon, W. Carey and Y. Collins.

Mr. C Ward, Chief Executive and Mr. E. Burke Director of Planning and Transport responded to the members.

A **Roll Call Vote**, on the proposed amended resolution, was called for in the names of Councillors C. Brady, D. McManus and W. Carey the result of which is as follows:

FOR 33 (THIRTY-THREE)

Councillors S. Barnes, C. Brady, V. Casserly, Y. Collins, L. De Courcy, S. Duff, L. Dunne, A. Edge, H. Farrell, T. Gilligan, A. Hayes, P. Holohan, K. Keane, P. Kearns, G. Kenny, B. Lawlor, D. Loftus, R. Mannion, L. McCrave, T. McDonald, R. McMahon, D. McManus, E. Murphy, E. Ó Broin, S. O’Hara, L. O’Toole, Baby Pereppadan, D. Richardson, A. Smyth, J. Spear, F. Timmons, J. Tuffy and N. Whelan.

AGAINST 2 (TWO)

Councillors W. Carey and M. Johansson.

ABSTAIN 0 (ZERO)

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

H14/0726 STRATEGIC INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT (SID) REPORT – MENTAL HEALTH HOSPITAL FACILITY, ST. EDMUNDSBURY HOSPITAL – FOR NOTING/RESOLUTION OPTION [HI 14 CE Report to ACP on Mental Health Hospital at St Edmundsbury](#) [HI 14 Presentation on SID](#)

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

Four resolutions proposed for members recommendations to An Coimisiún Pleanála, which had been circulated were **CONSIDERED**

It was proposed by Councillors C. Brady, V. Casserly, L. O'Toole, H. Farrell and J. Tuffy and seconded by Cllr F. Timmons to add the following recommendation, to be agreed by resolution of the members:

That members recommend to An Coimisiún Pleanála, in the event of a grant of permission, that provision be made within the development for a dedicated publicly accessible community facility/accommodation to support a non-clinical mental health and wellbeing hub for the wider community in partnership with South Dublin County Council as part of Sláintecare "Healthy Communities". Details to be agreed with the planning authority.

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors J. Tuffy, C. Brady, L. O'Toole, D. Loftus and E. Murphy.

Mr. E. Burke Director of Planning and Transport responded to the members queries.

The resolution was **AGREED**.

It was proposed by Councillor H. Farrell and seconded by Councillor F. Timmons to add the following recommendation, to be agreed by resolution of the members:

Protection of the pNHA and Protected Structure

The Council strongly supports the Chief Executive's recommendation (condition 3) that the proposed intrusion of the north-west corner of the building into the regenerated woodland buffer and proposed Natural Heritage Area (pNHA), and through the existing east-west wall of the Walled Garden, a Protected Structure, be removed by redesign of the development. In addition, a permanent, protected woodland buffer shall be established along the pNHA boundary, the extent of which shall be approved by ecological and arborist assessments. No construction compounds, haul roads, material storage or temporary works shall be permitted within that buffer, or within the root protection areas of retained trees on the site or on access roads to the sites internal to St. Edmundsbury land, unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Planning Authority.

The resolution was **AGREED**.

It was proposed by Councillor H. Farrell and seconded by Councillor F. Timmons to add the following recommendation, to be agreed by resolution of the members:

Cumulative Transport Assessment

Prior to commencement of development, an updated Transport Assessment shall assess the cumulative transport impacts of the proposed development together with already committed, permitted, and planned development within the wider Lucan, Adamstown and Clonburris area. Where material cumulative impacts are identified beyond those addressed in the Chief Executive's Report, appropriate additional mitigation measures shall be agreed with the Planning Authority and all the relevant transport authorities and implemented as part of the development.

The resolution was **AGREED**.

It was proposed by Councillor H. Farrell and seconded by Councillor F. Timmons to add the following recommendation, to be agreed by resolution of the members:

The Construction Phasing Programme and Construction Traffic Management Plan shall, insofar as reasonably practicable, programme the most traffic-intensive construction activities outside school terms and avoid Heavy Goods Vehicle movements during school opening and closing times at the five schools closest to the site. A dedicated Community Liaison Officer shall be appointed before development commences and retained throughout the construction period, to provide a single, accessible point of contact for residents, schools and

local stakeholders, issue advance notification of significant construction activities and traffic changes and maintain a record of complaints and corrective actions for review by the Planning Authority.

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillor R. McMahon and J. Tuffy.

Mr. E. Burke Director of Planning and Transport responded to the members queries.

The resolution was **AGREED**.

The Chief Executive's report was **NOTED**.

H15/0726 COMMUNITY GRANTS - FOR NOTING

The following reports by the Chief Executive, which had been circulated, were presented by Ms. E. Clancy, Acting Director of Community and were **CONSIDERED**.

[HI 15 CIF Report July Council Meeting](#)

[HI 15 Community Development Grants for noting](#)

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors L. O'Toole and J. Tuffy.

Ms. E. Clancy, Acting Director of Community E. Clancy responded to the members.

The reports were **NOTED**.

C1/0726 REPLIES, ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS & CORRESPONDENCE **Correspondence**

(a) Correspondence received from Minister N. Foley with update on Mother and Babies Homes

(b) Correspondence received from Limerick City and County Council

(c) Correspondence received from Wexford County Council

(d) Correspondence received from Dublin City Council

[\(a\) Correspondence received from Minister N. Foley with update on Mother and Babies Homes](#)

[\(b\) Correspondence received from Limerick City and County Council](#)

[\(c\) Correspondence received from Wexford County Council](#)

[\(d\) Correspondence received from Dublin City Council](#)

*The correspondence was **NOTED**.*

M1/0726 Halt Dismantling of EV Chargers

It was proposed by Councillor H. Farrell and seconded by Councillor F. Timmons:

That the Chief Executive intervenes to halt the dismantling of EV chargers at kerbside locations that require a cable from a household under footpaths to a charging point at a parking space, sets up an inspection process whereby currently safe installations can apply for retrospective planning permission, to ensure that developers do not have to remove such safe connections already in situ to conclude a taking in charge process, by means of amendment or other legal mechanisms; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

REPORT:

The Council supports the transition to more sustainable transport choices and recognises the increasing uptake of electric vehicles. The circumstances described in the motion arise where individual residents install EV charging infrastructure outside the curtilage of their dwelling, typically by connecting a private electricity supply to a charging point located on a public footpath or within a communal on-street parking space and the developer wants to offer the estate for Taking in Charge. These areas are intended for shared use and are not in the ownership or exclusive control of any one household but rather form part of lands managed by a developer or an Owners' Management Company (OMC) prior to Taking in Charge by SDCC.

It is a fundamental principle that private infrastructure cannot be installed within lands that are not in the ownership or control of the individual, including public roads, footpaths, verges and shared parking areas. In such cases, the installations give rise to a range of concerns, including potential trip hazards, impacts on accessibility for persons with disabilities and those with mobility aids, risks associated with unregulated electrical infrastructure, and potential damage to footpaths, verges and underlying services. These installations are not subject to any formal inspection, certification or ongoing maintenance regime by a competent authority, and accordingly give rise to public safety and liability risks. For these reasons, such arrangements are not authorised and cannot be permitted to remain in situ, regardless of their perceived safety at a given point in time.

There is currently no legislative provision in Ireland that permits the installation of private EV charging cables across or within the public realm in this manner, and no national guidance framework supporting such arrangements. In this context, the introduction of a retrospective inspection or planning process, as proposed in the motion, is not legally viable, as planning permission alone cannot regularise development which relies on the unauthorised occupation of land.

Before roads and associated infrastructure can be taken in charge, they must comply fully with planning permissions and the Council's standards, including the absence of unauthorised structures or encroachments within areas intended to become public infrastructure. Where privately installed EV chargers remain in footpaths or communal parking areas, the Council cannot assume responsibility for those roads, footpaths or associated services. Accordingly, the removal of such installations by the developer is necessary to enable estates to be taken in charge in compliance with statutory requirements.

The issues raised reflect a broader national policy challenge regarding how to facilitate EV charging for households without dedicated off-street parking. The Government's Private Wires Policy Statement (July 2025) recognises the growing need for accessible and affordable EV charging, including potential on-street solutions, particularly in higher-density developments. However, it also makes clear that such infrastructure must be delivered through planned, regulated and coordinated approaches, supported by an appropriate statutory and technical framework, rather than through ad hoc individual installations in shared public spaces. Any such approach would require clear provisions relating to land use, consents, safety standards, accessibility, and the responsibilities for installation, operation and maintenance, none of which are currently in place to enable the arrangements described in the motion.

In this context and acknowledging that many existing residential developments pre-date widespread EV adoption, the Council's position remains that EV charging within communal areas should be provided through coordinated, estate-wide or publicly managed solutions, such as shared charging bays or dedicated communal facilities. The Planning and Transport teams will continue to engage with national policy developments in this area and will review its approach as appropriate when a clear statutory and regulatory framework is established.

This motion is not recommended and setting up an inspection process whereby currently safe installations can apply for planning permission is not actionable in the absence of an appropriate statutory and technical framework.

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors H. Farrell, J. Tuffy, L. DeCourcy and L. O'Toole.

*The motion was **AGREED**.*

M2/0726 Provision within Planning Standards for Parking Small Commercial Vehicles

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

That this Council calls on the Chief Executive to incorporate provision within planning standards for the parking of small commercial vehicles, such as vans up to two tonnes, within residential developments, in recognition of current working practices

REPORT:

South Dublin County Council's County Development Plan establishes maximum car parking standards for residential developments. These standards are designed to strike an appropriate balance between facilitating necessary levels of vehicle use and supporting sustainable transport, high-quality placemaking, and the delivery of attractive, liveable residential environments.

At present, the Development Plan does not include specific or distinct provisions for the parking of small commercial vehicles, such as vans up to two tonnes.

It is noted, however, that a standard car parking space is generally capable of accommodating a small van of this nature. Consequently, the existing parking standards already provide a degree of flexibility to cater for residents who may require such vehicles as part of their employment.

The formal incorporation of specific provision or allocation for work-related vehicles within residential parking standards would give rise to a number of planning and urban design challenges, including:

- Increased visual presence and concentration of commercial vehicles within residential layouts, which may undermine the character and amenity of residential areas;
- Potential displacement effects within a fixed parking quantum, where prioritising commercial vehicle parking could reduce availability for general residential use;
- Constraints on site layout and design, particularly where differentiation or accommodation of such vehicles is sought within limited site areas, with potential impacts on:
 - Public open space provision
 - Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS) and other climate adaptation measures
 - Landscaping and biodiversity features

These elements are critical to ensuring residential amenity, environmental performance, and climate resilience.

Furthermore, the Council has historically received complaints from residents in relation to the parking of work-related vehicles within housing estates. Such concerns typically relate to visual impact, the scale and appearance of vehicles, obstruction of streets, and impacts on the character of residential areas. The formalisation of provision for such vehicles within planning standards may exacerbate these issues in certain contexts.

Having regard to the above, it is the view of the Council that the existing residential parking standards are appropriate and sufficiently flexible to accommodate small commercial vehicles where required and any potential policy change in this regard would more appropriately be considered as part of a future review of the County Development Plan, where it can be assessed in the context of overall transport strategy, urban design objectives, and national policy guidance.

This motion is not recommended and is not enforceable in the context of the current County Development Plan.

*The motion was **AGREED**.*

M3/0726 Installation of Sunscreen Dispensers

It was proposed by Councillor E. Murphy and seconded by Councillor F. Timmons:

That this Council requests the Chief Executive to install sunscreen dispensers in each park in South Dublin County

REPORT:

By way of background, a number of local authorities have recently introduced sunscreen dispensers in public parks on a pilot basis. Cork City Council, in partnership with the HSE South West and the National Cancer Control Programme, launched a pilot initiative in July 2025 providing free sunscreen dispensers in four city parks.

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council also announced the roll-out of free sunscreen dispensers across seven principal public parks in April 2026, as part of a broader public health and prevention initiative developed in association with the Irish Cancer Society.

Public health guidance from the HSE National Cancer Control Programme is clear that sunscreen should not be regarded as the sole protection against harmful ultraviolet radiation. It should be used alongside other protective measures, including appropriate clothing and the provision or use of shade.

In this context, natural shade through tree planting and park design is already considered in the development and enhancement of park infrastructure.

SDCC has contacted the relevant local authorities and partner organisations to obtain further information on the implementation, promotion, operation and ongoing maintenance of these schemes. Subject to the outcome of these pilot initiatives, and to assessment of the associated operational and resource implications, the Council will give further consideration to the potential introduction of a similar programme in SDCC parks as part of the budget process.

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

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

*The motion was **AGREED**.*

M4/O726 Road Sign Maintenance

It was proposed by Councillor E. Ó Broin and seconded by Councillor F. Timmons:

That this Council requests the Chief Executive to ensure that all roads in the County are inspected at least twice yearly for misaligned or obscured signs, missing street name signs, and hedges encroaching on footpaths.

REPORT:

The Road Maintenance Section receives a consistently high volume of service requests and defect reports from elected members and members of the public. In the first five months of 2026, almost 3,000 customer submissions were received. The most common categories of these reports relate to road repairs, footpath repairs, hedge and grass cutting, potholes, and road markings. Issues such as misaligned or obscured signage, missing street name plates, and vegetation encroachment on footpaths are also regularly identified through this channel.

The merit in the intent of the motion is acknowledged, particularly in seeking to move towards a more proactive rather than reactive maintenance approach across the County's road network. However, under current operational arrangements, the volume, coverage and frequency of inspections proposed would not represent an efficient use of available resources. The Council is responsible for approximately 1,200 kilometres of county roads, in addition to associated footpaths, signage, and ancillary infrastructure. To undertake a comprehensive inspection of this entire

network twice yearly, as proposed, would require a very significant increase in staffing and associated resources. In this context, and having regard to current demands and service priorities, such an inspection programme would be inefficient when compared to the benefits derived.

The existing level of reporting provides a continuous and responsive source of information on the condition of the County's roads and associated infrastructure. The majority of the issues that would be identified through a formal biannual inspection regime are brought to the attention of the Council through these customer submissions and member representations, allowing the Road Maintenance resources to prioritise and address defects based on need.

The number of Road Inspectors has increased from three to four in 2026, strengthening the Council's capacity to identify and assess maintenance requirements across the County. These inspectors, together with other Roads staff operating on the ground, provide a level of ongoing observation and oversight of the road network. While this does not constitute a formally programmed and committed twice-yearly inspection regime, it does provide a practical level of coverage across the County.

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors E. Ó Broin and L. Dunne.

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

*The motion was **AGREED**.*

M5/0726 Housing Maintenance Requests

It was proposed by Councillor D. Loftus, seconded by Councillor Timmons and **MOVED WITHOUT DEBATE** and **AGREED**.

That this Council calls on the Chief Executive to allow social housing tenants to submit maintenance requests by phone, recognising that many residents may have limited digital skills or access.

REPORT:

As part of our ongoing digital transformation programme, the Housing Online (HOL) portal provides housing customers with a secure, mobile-friendly self-service platform that is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The portal enables tenants to access a range of housing services, including the submission of maintenance requests directly into the repairs management system, facilitating a more efficient, timely and responsive service. 4,450 households are registered with our Housing online Portal.

Given the widespread availability of digital technology and the high level of digital engagement across the population, tenants are encouraged to submit non-emergency maintenance requests through Housing Online. This approach supports faster processing, improved customer tracking and more effective management of repair requests.

To assist customers in using the service, a range of step-by-step guidance videos is available on the Council's website at [Housing Maintenance and Repairs](#). In addition, internet access is available through the public library network and other community facilities. Tenants who require assistance with registration or using the portal can contact the Housing Online team at hol@sducobincoco.ie.

The Council recognises that some tenants may face barriers in accessing digital services. Accordingly, a dedicated telephone service remains available during office hours for emergency repairs and for older tenants, JAM Card holders and tenants with additional support needs who may require assistance in logging maintenance requests. 14,445 telephone calls were answered by the team up to the 30 June 26.

Members should note that the Housing Maintenance Section can only act on representations relating to maintenance issues where the repair request has first been logged by the tenant through Housing Online or, where applicable, by telephone through the dedicated support arrangements outlined above.

In light of the range of digital and assisted-access options currently available, it is not proposed to reintroduce a general telephone-based maintenance reporting service for all tenants.

M6/O726 CE Scheme top up payment

It was proposed by Councillor F. Timmons, seconded by Councillor A. Edge and **MOVED WITHOUT DEBATE** and **AGREED**.

That this council calls on the Minister for Social Protection to look at increasing the top up payment to Community Employment (CE) scheme workers to a minimum of €50 and broadening the eligibility criteria to access CE schemes to encourage uptake and provide workers for community services.

REPORT:

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

M7/0726 Solidarity with workers at National Ambulance Service

It was proposed by Councillor M. Johansson, seconded by Councillor F. Timmons and **MOVED WITHOUT DEBATE** and **AGREED**.

That the elected members of this council express their solidarity with the workers at the National Ambulance Service who have been on strike due to the failure of the HSE to implement a 2020 report on improved pay scales reflecting the increased workload and responsibilities of frontline workers, and that a letter be issued to the Minister for Health and the HSE calling on them to immediately implement the recommendations of the report.

REPORT:

If the motion is passed, letters will be issued to the Minister for Health and Chief Executive Officer of the Health Service Executive; the responses, when received, will be circulated to the Members.

M8/0726 Cessation of trading by Oshi Software Limited

It was proposed by Councillor L. de Courcy, seconded by Councillor F. Timmons and **MOVED WITHOUT DEBATE** and **AGREED**.

That this Council agrees to write to the Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment, Peter Burke TD, and the Minister for Culture, Communications and Sport, Patrick O'Donovan TD, following the cessation of trading by Oshi Software Limited, trading as Tickets.ie, in early June 2026, to request their intervention on behalf of affected festival and event organisers, the urgent introduction of regulation of the ticketing sector to safeguard funds held for promoters and consumers, and the mobilisation of any available departmental supports and funding for affected events and organisers.

REPORT:

If the motion is passed, letters will be issued to Peter Burke, Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment and to Patrick O'Donovan, Minister for Culture, Communications and Sport; the responses, when received, will be circulated to the Members.

M9/0726 Recognition of Tragedy in April 1979 at Glen of Imaal, County Wicklow

It was proposed by Councillor G. Kenny and seconded by Councillor F. Timmons:

That this Council recognises the tragedy that occurred in April 1979 at the Glen of Imaal, County Wicklow, when three children from St Mary's Youth Club, Lucan, were killed and many others injured after coming upon

unexploded ordnance while hiking to Lugnaquilla Mountain; notes the emergence of new evidence and further information, including the extensive report published by TheJournal.ie in September 2024; and calls on the Taoiseach and the Minister for Defence to issue a formal apology to all those affected by the tragedy.

REPORT:

If the motion is passed, letters will be issued to an Taoiseach, Micheál Martin and to Minister for Defence, Helen McEntee; the responses, when received, will be circulated to the Members.

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors G. Kenny and J. Tuffy.

*The motion was **AGREED**.*

M10/0726 Reunification of Ireland an Objective of Bunreacht na hÉireann

It was proposed by Councillor W. Carey and seconded by Councillor F. Timmons:

That this Council recognises that Irish reunification is an objective of Bunreacht na hÉireann; notes the growing national discussion on constitutional change and the role of the Good Friday Agreement 1998 in providing for unity referendums; further notes the recommendations of the Joint Oireachtas Committee report Perspectives on Constitutional Change: Finance and Economics; and agrees to write to the Taoiseach requesting that the Government plan and prepare for Irish unity by establishing an all-island Citizens' Assembly and Joint Oireachtas Committee on Irish Unity, publishing a plan in consultation with civic society and key stakeholders, engaging with northern Protestant and unionist opinion, and working to secure a date for the unity referendums provided for in the Good Friday Agreement.

REPORT:

If the motion is passed a letter will be issued to an Taoiseach, Micheál Martin; the response, when received, will be circulated to the Members.

An amendment to the motion was proposed by Councillor D. McManus and seconded by Councillor E. Murphy:

That this Council recognises that Irish reunification is an objective of Bunreacht na hÉireann; notes the growing national discussion on constitutional change and the role of the Good Friday Agreement 1998 in providing for unity referendums; further notes the recommendations of the

Joint Oireachtas Committee report Perspectives on Constitutional Change: Finance and Economics; and agrees to write to the Taoiseach, **First Minister of Northern Ireland Michelle O'Neill, and the UK Government's Secretary of State for Northern Ireland** requesting that the Governments plan and prepare for Irish unity by establishing an all-island Citizens' Assembly and Joint Oireachtas Committee on Irish Unity, publishing a plan in consultation with civic society and key stakeholders, engaging with northern Protestant and unionist opinion, and working to secure a date for the unity referendums provided for in the Good Friday Agreement.

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors W. Carey, D. Loftus, J. Tuffy, D. McManus, Y. Collins, R. Mannion, E. Murphy, P. Holohan, N. Whelan, L. Dunne and P. Kearns.

*The amended motion was **AGREED**.*

Meeting ended 18.30