

COMHAIRLE CONTAE ÁTHA CLIATH THEAS
SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL



MEETING OF SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL

Monday, October 12, 2026

HEADED ITEM NO. 1

HEADED ITEM: Community Directorate

CONFIRMATION AND REAFFIRMATION OF MINUTES - FOR APPROVAL

Minutes of South Dublin County Council meeting held on Monday 14 September 2026.

PRESENT

Barnes, S.	Loftus, D.
Brady, C.	Mannion, R.
Carey, W.	McCrave, L.
Casserly, V.	McDonald, T.
Collins, Y.	McMahon, R.
Cosgrave, P.	McManus, D.
de Courcy, L.	Moore, G.
Donnelly, D.	Murphy, E.
Duff, S.	Ó Broin, E.
Dunne, L.	O'Hara, S.
Edge, A.	O'Toole, L.
Farrell, H.	Pereppadan Baby
Gilligan, T.	Pereppadan Britto
Hayes, A.	Richardson, D.
Holohan, P.	Sinnott, J.
Johansson, M.	Smyth, A.
Keane, K.	Spear, J.
Kearns, P.	Timmons, F.
Kenny, G.	Tuffy, J.
Lawlor, B.	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 Engineers	J. Helbert, J.J. Hegarty
Senior Executive Officer	B. Shannon
Senior Staff Officer	K. McLoughlin
Staff Officer	P. Mens
Assistant Staff Officer	L. Farrell

The Mayor, Councillor F. Timmons, presided.

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.

H1/0926 CONFIRMATION AND REAFFIRMATION OF MINUTES - FOR APPROVAL

Minutes of the July Council Meeting held on 8 July 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 E. Murphy and the members **AGREED**.

HL 1 Minutes for the July 2026 Council Meeting

H2/0926 REPORTS OF AREA COMMITTEES - FOR NOTING

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

H3/0926 STANDING COMMITTEES ORGANISATION, PROCEDURE & FINANCE - FOR APPROVAL

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

H4/0926 STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEES - FOR NOTING

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

H5/0926 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 Y. Collins and **RESOLVED**:

“That pursuant to Standing Order No. 22, Questions numbered Q1 – Q44 be **ADOPTED** and **APPROVED**”

Q1/0926 Councillor W. Carey

To ask the Chief Executive for a report on the current extent of the invasive plant species rhododendron ponticum within the county, including the locations affected, any significant changes in its spread in recent years, areas of particular concern, the measures being undertaken to control or eradicate the species, and the effectiveness of these measures to date.

REPLY:

Rhododendron ponticum is an invasive, non-native evergreen shrub found in many parts of Ireland, including the Dublin region. It is commonly found in woodlands, old estates and upland areas such as the Dublin Mountains. If left unmanaged, it can spread quickly, crowd out native plants and reduce biodiversity.

There are currently no known records of *Rhododendron ponticum* on lands managed by South Dublin County Council's Parks and Public Realm section.

The National Biodiversity Data Centre's mapping website (<https://maps.biodiversityireland.ie/>) provides publicly available information on species recorded throughout Ireland. Based on the records currently available, the known occurrences of *Rhododendron ponticum* within the South Dublin County Council administrative area are located in the Glenasmole area, specifically on private lands near the Upper and Lower Bohernabreena Reservoirs.

Under the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011, responsibility for managing invasive alien species rests with the landowner. As the recorded occurrences are on private lands, responsibility for their management lies with the relevant landowners.

The Council will continue to monitor invasive species on lands under its management and take appropriate action where necessary.

Q2/0926

Councillor W. Carey

To ask the Chief Executive whether the Council will review the documentation requirements for people who are sofa surfing and seeking access to homeless HAP or emergency accommodation, particularly where obtaining confirmation from property owners or landlords may not be feasible.

REPLY:

We recognise that applicants who are sofa surfing may experience practical difficulties in providing standard documentation when seeking access to emergency accommodation or Homeless HAP. Each case is considered on its individual circumstances, and where standard verification is not readily available, housing staff will work with the applicant to identify appropriate alternative evidence that may assist in assessing their housing situation.

At the same time, verification of an applicant's address and housing circumstances remains an essential part of the assessment process. The council is required to take reasonable steps to confirm an applicant's living arrangements so that housing supports are allocated fairly, consistently and in accordance with the relevant eligibility criteria. The documentation requirements are therefore applied with due regard to the applicant's circumstances, while ensuring that the integrity of the assessment process is maintained.

Q3/0926 Councillor W. Carey

To ask the Chief Executive whether any policy exists that permits, restricts or prohibits the display of artwork by local artists in community centres, park cafés and other council-operated premises.

REPLY:

Generally, the exhibition of artworks will be subject to the approval of community centre management and the boards of the centre, by the licenced operators of the park cafés, and by library management in the case of libraries. Decisions on exhibitions may be assessed against objectives such as accessibility, community benefit, inclusivity, and alignment with the role of the premises.

Although there is not a specific stand-alone 'art exhibition policy' in Council operated premises, exhibitions might be restricted where the work:

- Creates health and safety concerns
- Is discriminatory, abusive, defamatory, or unlawful.
- Risks damage to property or disruption to services.
- Conflicts with the library's obligation to provide an inclusive public space for all users.
- Fails to comply with the conditions governing use of rooms and event spaces.

There are conditions governing the use of rooms and event spaces in SDCC Libraries, where exhibitions are treated as a use of library space. It gives library management discretion over what activities, displays, or events are permitted and may include rules relating to public safety, insurance, suitability, compliance with law, and the library's right to refuse or remove material.

If an exhibition could create disruption, offend users, or conflict with

expected standards of behaviour in a public facility, the Code of Conduct may be cited as a basis for restricting or removing display.

Broader Council policies concerning equality, discrimination, public safety, child safeguarding, reputation, and compliance with law may also influence what artwork can be displayed. The Council maintains a wider suite of corporate policies that apply across its services.

Q4/0926 Councillor L. de Courcy

To ask the Chief Executive how many families, couples, single men and single women granted permission to remain in the State following residence in IPAS have applied for emergency accommodation or social housing support in South Dublin County Council since 2020, with the information provided in tabular form by year and demographic category.

REPLY:

Individuals residing in IPAS accommodation are not eligible to access emergency accommodation, as accommodation is already available to them through the IPAS system.

We do not record or report on an applicant's immigration status history, immigration pathway, or previous accommodation arrangements, including whether an individual was accommodated within the International Protection Accommodation Services (IPAS) system prior to being granted permission to remain in the State.

Eligibility for social housing support is determined in accordance with the provisions of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2009, and the Social Housing Assessment Regulations 2011 (as amended). Eligibility for homeless services is assessed in accordance with our statutory responsibilities under the Housing Act 1988, as amended. Once eligibility has been established, applicants are assessed on the basis of their current housing circumstances, household composition, and identified housing need. Our housing and homeless services records do not contain a specific category that records applicants who have previously resided in IPAS accommodation or who were granted leave to remain following an international protection application.

Q5/0926

Councillor L. de Courcy

To ask the Chief Executive how many families, couples, single men and single women granted permission to remain in the State following residence in IPAS have, since 2020, been provided with emergency accommodation or allocated social housing by South Dublin County Council, with the information provided in tabular form by year and demographic category.

REPLY:

Individuals residing in IPAS accommodation are not eligible to access emergency accommodation, as accommodation is already available to them through the IPAS system.

We do not record or report on an applicant's immigration status history, immigration pathway, or previous accommodation arrangements, including whether an individual was accommodated within the International Protection Accommodation Services (IPAS) system prior to being granted permission to remain in the State.

Eligibility for social housing support is determined in accordance with the provisions of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2009, and the Social Housing Assessment Regulations 2011 (as amended). Eligibility for homeless services is assessed in accordance with our statutory responsibilities under the Housing Act 1988, as amended. Once eligibility has been established, applicants are assessed on the basis of their current housing circumstances, household composition, and identified housing need. Our housing and homeless services records do not contain a specific category that records applicants who have previously resided in IPAS accommodation or who were granted leave to remain following an international protection application.

The Dublin Regional Homeless Executive (DRHE) has provided the breakdown below of families, single men and single women with social housing applications in South Dublin County Council who were granted access to emergency accommodation services, where the recorded reason for presentation was "Leaving Direct Provision." The data relates to applicants on our housing list. The majority of these individuals were accommodated in emergency accommodation located within the Dublin City Council (DCC) administrative area and provided by DCC.

	2022 Singles			2023 Singles			2024 Singles			2025 Singles			2026 Singles (Jan-July)		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Leaving Direct Provision	3	1	4	12	13	25	74	30	104	80	21	101	29	15	44

	2022 Families			2023 Families			2024 Families			2025 Families			2026 Families (Jan-July)		
	Families	Adults	Children	Families	Adults	Children	Families	Adults	Children	Families	Adults	Children	Families	Adults	Children
Leaving Direct Provision	2	2	4	2	3	4	6	7	9	4	6	9	7	6	9

These figures do not represent direct referrals or transfers from IPAS accommodation into emergency accommodation. The DRHE has confirmed that this data was not routinely collected in 2022 and 2023. Prior to 2024, presentations were recorded only where an individual had left Direct Provision within the previous three months. From 2024 onwards, this reporting window was extended to six months. Consequently, the data captures individuals who may have left IPAS accommodation several months before presenting as homeless and therefore should not be interpreted as evidence of direct transitions from IPAS accommodation into emergency accommodation.

Q6/0926

Councillor L. de Courcy

To ask the Chief Executive, in light of information obtained as a result of FOIs for Fingal County Council's housing allocation list (<https://www.thetransparencyobjective.com/our-research>) showing that non-nationals were 1.4 times more likely to get a home than an Irish citizen, to publish the breakdown of housing allocations by i) Irish citizen, ii) UK citizen, iii) EU citizen, iv) non-EEA citizen in tabular form from 2020 to 2025 to allay concerns the same situation is occurring in SDCC.

REPLY:

The council provides social housing supports in accordance with relevant legislation and under our Allocation Scheme which is a reserved function of the elected members. Eligibility (and subsequent allocation) decisions are based on applicants' citizenship and/or residency status as opposed to nationality or country of origin. Applicants must have a legal right to reside in the State, whether through Irish, UK or European Economic Area citizenship, or a relevant appropriate immigration permission from the Department of Justice, to be eligible for social housing supports; Details of citizenship and associated residency information where relevant are collected to assess eligibility for social housing supports but specific nationality data may not be recorded in every instance as it is not a criterion for either eligibility or allocations.

Accordingly, the table below provides a breakdown by citizenship category of 5,173 housing allocations recorded from 2022 to 2026. These figures show the number of allocations made within each category but do not represent a measure of the likelihood of allocation to an individual applicant within any particular category which is more appropriately assessed by a number of factors including

time on the housing list, household circumstances, housing need, and the availability of suitable accommodation.

Housing List Allocations by Citizenship Category 2022-2026					
Year	Irish	UK	EEA	Non-EEA	Total
2022	445	3	65	102	615
2023	489	8	79	110	686
2024	915	13	157	219	1,304
2025	901	16	206	230	1,353
2026	822	13	161	219	1,215
Total	3572	53	668	880	5,173
%	69%	1%	13%	17%	100%

*Please note figures differ slightly from previously reported annual figures in instances where notifications of allocations by approved housing bodies were received after a specific reporting date.

Q7/0926

Councillor H. Farrell

To ask the Chief Executive to outline the council's policy and criteria for the provision of 30 km/h speed limit signage in residential estates, including at estate entrances and busy internal junctions, in light of the wider introduction of 30 km/h speed limits in urban and residential areas.

REPLY:

The Council's approach to 30 km/h speed limits is guided by national policy and guidance on urban speed management. Residential 30 km/h Slow Zone guidance has been in place since 2015, providing for the introduction of lower speed environments within residential areas where appropriate.

Within designated Slow Zones, a **bespoke 30 km/h Slow Zone sign** is used to clearly identify the start and end of the zone. The intention of the Slow Zone approach is that the speed limit applies throughout the area, reducing the need for excessive sign clutter within estates while ensuring motorists are aware of the lower speed environment

upon entry. A photo of a Slow Zone sign is attached to this item for illustration.

The Council keeps requests for additional speed limit signage under review and considers them having regard to national traffic sign regulations, road safety considerations and the characteristics of the particular estate. While reminder signage may be considered at specific locations where justified, the general approach is to provide clear gateway signage at the entrances to Slow Zones and to avoid unnecessary duplication of signs within residential areas.

As part of the South Dublin County Council Speed Limit Review 2026, the Council is identifying additional residential areas suitable for designation as 30 km/h Slow Zones. This will include a number of residential estates that have recently been taken in charge by the Council. Following adoption of the review and the making of the necessary Speed Limit Byelaws, appropriate 30 km/h Slow Zone signage will be erected at these locations.

The Council will continue to monitor traffic conditions within residential estates and will assess requests for additional traffic calming and speed management measures where evidence indicates a road safety benefit.

Q7 (b) "Slow Zone" Sign

Q8/0926

Councillor P. Holohan

To ask the Chief Executive what the current average waiting time is for an applicant on the Council's housing list before being allocated social housing?

REPLY:

The table below outlines the average waiting time (in years) by property type for allocations completed to 31 August 2026 from the standard housing list:

Bedroom Size	Average Waiting Time
1 Bed	5.83
2 Bed	7.61
3 Bed	10.82
4 Bed *	17.27

* Six newly constructed four-bedroom homes were allocated to eligible households through our standard housing list. Of these, five 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.

Q9/0926

Councillor P. Holohan

To ask the Chief Executive what the current average waiting time is for households on the housing transfer list?

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 31 August 2026, a total of 45 offers of suitable accommodation had been made to eligible applicants on the housing transfer list. Of these, 32 offers were refused by applicants, while 13 households successfully transferred to alternative accommodation. In addition, 5 households were transferred from the Medical Housing List to accommodation that meets their assessed medical needs. A further 2 households were transferred through a Mutual Transfer.

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

Housing need	Average time (in years)
1 bed	5.8
2 bed	5.6
3 bed	7.7
4 bed	13.8

Q10/0926 Councillor P. Holohan

To ask the Chief Executive to outline the Council's protocol following a house fire in a Council-owned dwelling occupied by an SDCC tenant?

REPLY:

Following notification of a fire in a council-owned dwelling, the property is inspected and secured as soon as it is safe to do so. A Clerk of Works assesses the extent of the damage and liaises with our insurer. Where required, specialist inspections, including mechanical and electrical assessments, are arranged. Clearance and cleansing works may also be necessary before the full scope of reinstatement works can be determined.

Once the insurer's loss adjuster has assessed the damage and the necessary approvals are in place, contractor quotations are sought and reinstatement works are progressed.

Fire-damaged properties can be complex, and the full extent of damage may not be apparent at the outset. Each case is therefore managed on its individual circumstances, with timelines dependent on the nature and extent of the damage, insurance requirements, the

outcome of specialist inspections and the works required to safely reinstate the property.

The Estate Management Team engages with the tenant throughout the process and provides advice on temporary arrangements while repair works are being carried out. Depending on the severity of the damage and the circumstances of the case, the tenant may also be asked to sign a tenant disposal waiver form where appropriate.

Where there is any indication that a fire may have been deliberately started, or that a council-owned home or tenant has been targeted, the matter is treated seriously. We will liaise with An Garda Síochána, Dublin Fire Brigade and other relevant agencies as appropriate, and any available information will be considered as part of the wider estate management response. Such cases are managed with due regard to tenant safety, the protection of council property and the need to support any investigation by the relevant authorities.

We are also conscious of the emerging fire safety risks associated with batteries in e-scooters and similar devices, particularly where devices are charged indoors, unattended, overnight, or in hallways and other escape routes. Tenants are reminded that unsafe charging practices can lead to fires and that devices should only be charged in accordance with manufacturer guidance and recognised fire safety advice.

In general, it is not our policy to provide alternative accommodation where a fire occurs in a tenant's home. Tenants are advised, in the first instance, to seek temporary accommodation with family or friends, where this is available. We do not maintain a supply of vacant dwellings for use as temporary accommodation while works are carried out to fire-damaged properties. Progress reviews are undertaken regularly to support the efficient turnaround of such dwellings, having regard to the circumstances of the household and the need to return the property to safe occupation as soon as possible.

Q11/0926 Councillor M. Johansson

To ask the Chief Executive to provide a report on how many rent accounts have been assessed in 2026 (per month) and the average rent increase per household?

REPLY:

Social housing rent accounts are currently assessed on a rolling basis and are calculated on a Differential Rent which is based on household income. The targeted number of assessments for 2026 is 4,000.

Tenants are required to notify us of any change in their household income and submit relevant documentation immediately, so their rent can be adjusted e.g., copy of payslip or social welfare payment. The Rents team have assessed almost 3,800 rent accounts to date this year. It currently takes approximately two weeks to review a rent assessment application provided all the information submitted is complete. However, in a significant number of cases, additional information is requested, and we provide tenants with an additional 14 days to respond.

An updated Differential Rent Scheme was introduced in July 2026 which 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.

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

Rent Assessments and Average Monthly Rent 2026

Month	Number of assessments
January	560
February	336
March	356
April	497
May	419
June	295
July	623
August	713

Month	Average monthly rent €
January	325.00
February	327.55
March	329.07
April	330.76
May	333.84
June	337.26
July	340.21
August	349.05

Q12/0926 Councillor M. Johansson

To ask the Chief Executive to provide a report on all the sites on the Derelict Sites Register including all actions taken on each site in 2026?

REPLY:

South Dublin County Council actively monitors the Derelict Sites Register and takes the actions available under the Derelict Sites Act 1990.

There are currently 26 properties on the register, which can be viewed at: [Derelict Sites - SDCC](#)

A summary of the actions undertaken under the Derelict Sites Act 1990 during 2026 to date is set out below.

Properties Added to the Derelict Sites Register

Five properties have been added to the Derelict Sites Register in 2026:

- DS 2039 - Edmondstown Mills, Edmondstown Road, Rathfarnham
- DS 1715 - Riverside House, Old Nangor Road, Clondalkin
- DS 1978 - 53 Glenview Park, Tallaght
- DS 2032 - Lands at Tay Lane, Rathcoole
- DS 2023A - 44A Harelawn Drive, Clondalkin

Inspections

A total of 51 inspections have been carried out in respect of properties on the Register.

Section 11 Notices

A formal notice requiring the owner of a derelict site to take steps to improve the condition of the site and address any risks it may pose to the public or neighbouring properties.

Section 11 Notices have been issued in respect of six registered properties:

- DS 1864 - 19 Páirc Mhúire, Saggart
- DS 1864A - 20 Páirc Mhúire, Saggart
- DS 1991 – Site at Main Street, Rathcoole
- DS 1631 - 2 Cottages, Main Street, Rathcoole
- DS 2046 - 1 St Brendan's Crescent, Greenhills
- DS 1978 - 53 Glenview Park, Tallaght

Section 15 Notices / Compulsory Acquisition

One Section 15 Notice of intention to acquire a derelict site has been served in 2026. The notice was served on DS 1959 (6 Barton Road West, Rathfarnham) in May. Appeals against the proposed acquisition were received and consent has subsequently been sought from An Coimisiún Pleanála under Section 16 of the Derelict Sites Act 1990. Further information is available at: [**324450 | An Coimisiún Pleanála**](#)

Preparatory work is ongoing with a view to serving Section 15 Notices on two additional properties in the coming weeks. Several other properties on the register are currently under review for the possible commencement of compulsory acquisition proceedings.

DS 1818 (11 Turret Road, Palmerstown) has vested in the Council, and the registration of the property is progressing with the Property Registration Authority. Access to the property has recently been obtained.

Section 23 Levies

An annual levy applied to a property on the register to encourage the owner to bring the site back into use and address its derelict condition. The levy is currently calculated at 7% of the market value of the property per year. Properties on the register continue to be assessed for the application of levies under Section 23 of the Derelict Sites Act 1990. It is anticipated that levies will be applied to a number of properties before the end of 2026.

Investigations of Potential Derelict Sites

Under Section 3 of the Derelict Sites Act 1990, sites that may meet the statutory definition of a derelict site are investigated before any decision is made regarding inclusion on the register.

To date in 2026, 17 statutory notices and 18 warning letters have been issued as part of ongoing investigations. A total of 131 inspections have also been carried out in connection with potential derelict sites.

Q13/0926 **Councillor D. Loftus**

To ask the Chief Executive to provide a report on the current number of vacant council owned homes broken down by Local Electoral Area.

REPLY:

Our Housing Maintenance and Refurbishment section undertakes re-let works on our vacant housing stock across the County, with the objective of returning homes to productive use and making them available for allocation as quickly as possible. In August'26, the average turnaround time from the date a property was surrendered to the date it was allocated was 17.36 weeks.

There are currently 62 vacant council homes, representing approximately 0.58% of our total housing stock. The breakdown of vacant properties by Local Electoral Area and current status is set out in the table below:

Electoral Area	Survey	In Progress	Ready	Totals
Clondalkin	4	7	3	14
Lucan	0	2	0	2
Palmerstown-Fonthill	2	8	3	13
Tallaght South	3	17	5	25
Tallaght Central	0	0	2	2
Firhouse-Bohernabreena	1	3	0	4
Rathfarnham-Templeogue	0	2	0	2
Totals	10	39	13	62

Q14/0926 **Councillor D. Loftus**

To ask the Chief Executive to provide a list of the council owned buildings where the council provide free female sanitary products and bins.

REPLY:

Free female sanitary products and hygiene bins are provided at County Hall and Civic Offices.

In addition, South Dublin County Council currently provides free female sanitary products and sanitary disposal bins in all public library buildings across the county and in a number of Council-owned community centres and facilities. This initiative supports access to essential hygiene products and forms part of the Council's commitment to addressing period poverty within local communities. The provision of sanitary products is part funded through the Healthy Ireland Period Poverty Mitigation Scheme.

The following Council-owned library buildings provide both free sanitary products and sanitary disposal bins:

- Ballyroan Library
- Castletymon Library
- Clondalkin Library
- Lucan Library
- North Clondalkin Library
- Palmerstown Library
- Tallaght Library

Free sanitary products and bins are provided in the following SDCC Community Centres:

- St Aengus Community Centre
- Jobstown Community Centre
- Fettercairn Community and Youth Centre
- Knockmitten Youth and Community Centre
- Quarryvale Community and Youth Centre
- Balgaddy Child and Family Centre
- Orchard Lane
- YMCA Neilstown
- YMCA Rowlagh
- YMCA Balgaddy

Q15/0926 **Councillor D. Loftus**

To ask the Chief Executive what measures are being put in place to ensure that heating failures in Council owned homes are addressed promptly during the coming winter period.

REPLY:

We treat heating failures in council-owned homes as urgent maintenance issues, particularly during the winter period.

Heating system repairs are classified as urgent by the Housing Maintenance Section, with a target completion timeframe of within 10 working days from the date the maintenance request is received. In practice, our mechanical contractors typically respond to reported heating faults within 48 hours, with additional priority given, where required, to older tenants and tenants who may be vulnerable.

While most heating repairs are completed on the first visit, some cases require follow-up attendance due to the availability of parts, the nature or severity of the fault, or other unavoidable operational factors. Where this arises, cases continue to be managed through the maintenance system until the repair is completed.

We also have a planned maintenance and inspection programme in place for boilers in our social homes. This programme supports the safe and efficient operation of heating systems and helps to reduce the risk of breakdowns through preventative maintenance.

Our annual budget is €3.4 million for the servicing and replacement of existing heating systems. Where an existing gas boiler requires replacement and the property is not included in the pending Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme, it is replaced with a modern, efficient condensing gas boiler.

As of the end of August'26, 2,885 heating-related housing maintenance repairs had been completed. The average completion timeframe for these works was 5.44 days, which is within the target response period and demonstrates the ongoing focus on timely delivery of essential heating repairs for tenants.

Q16/0926 **Councillor D. Loftus**

To ask the Chief Executive for a report listing all existing and proposed data centres within the Council area, including the Planning Register Reference and current status of each, with a breakdown of those that are operational, under construction, subject to a live planning application, or currently before An Bord Pleanála.

Q16 (i) List of Permitted Data Centres

REPLY:

The attached schedule provides details of data centre developments within the County, including the relevant Planning Register References and the current status of individual data halls.

Planning permissions granted to date provide for 42 individual data halls across a number of approved data centre developments. Based on available planning and construction records, 32 data halls have been completed, 8 are currently under construction, and 2 have planning permission but have not yet commenced development.

The Council maintains records of the planning of data centre developments and updates the development status when resources allow. However, it does not currently maintain records of operational data halls.

Since June 2022, 10 planning applications relating to data centre developments have been appealed to An Bord Pleanála / An Coimisiún Pleanála, two of which are currently awaiting determination.

Further details are contained in the attached report

Q17/0926 **Councillor D. Loftus**

To ask the Chief Executive for a report detailing the number of people in homeless accommodation within the South Dublin County Council area at the end of each of the last five years, together with the number of vacant homeless accommodation spaces available at each year-end.

REPLY:

SDCC continues to work closely with the Dublin Regional Homeless Executive (DRHE) in responding to homelessness within the County and across the wider Dublin region.

At present, there are 638 households registered as homeless with South Dublin County Council. Homeless accommodation services in the county operate at full capacity, and any emergency placements required outside of the direct local provision are arranged through the DRHE central placement system, which operates services across the greater Dublin area on behalf of the four Dublin local authorities.

There are six family hubs currently in operation as follows:

- High Street Family Hub (Abberley): a privately managed facility with 58 rooms, including 9 large family rooms, currently fully occupied by 58 households.
- Firhouse Family Hub: managed by Respond Housing, with 20 rooms, currently fully occupied by 20 households.
- Springfield Family Hub: managed by Respond Housing, with 12 family rooms, currently fully occupied by 12 households.
- Cappaghmore Family Hub: managed by Peter McVerry Trust, with 8 rooms for small families and mothers with small children, currently fully occupied.
- Airtown Family Hub: a privately managed facility with 38 family rooms, currently fully occupied.
- Becketts Hotel: a newly opened, privately managed facility with 15 family rooms, currently fully occupied.

There are also three single-person hubs in operation as follows:

- Finnstown House: a privately managed facility providing placements for single females.
- Kilinenny House: managed by Peter McVerry Trust.
- Kiltipper House: managed by Peter McVerry Trust.

In relation to vacant spaces, all homeless accommodation services within the county are currently operating at full capacity. Vacancies, when they arise, are filled on an ongoing basis through the relevant placement arrangements and do not generally remain unoccupied. Any temporary vacancy is typically associated with the turnaround period between occupancies, including cleaning, maintenance and any necessary administrative arrangements prior to reallocation.

Families residing in temporary emergency accommodation facilitated by the DRHE are considered for placement in family hub accommodation within the county as suitable spaces become available. We will also continue, in conjunction with the DRHE, to actively explore opportunities to identify suitable locations within the County for the provision of additional homeless accommodation.

Q18/0926 Councillor D. McManus

To ask the Chief Executive how many households entered into a new long-term social housing tenancy in an SDCC-owned or Approved Housing Body (AHB) property during 2025, and whether a projected or expected figure is available for 2026.

REPLY:

Based on allocation activity recorded to 31 August 2026, it is expected that the number of households entering new long-term

social housing tenancies during 2026 will meet, and may exceed, the total number delivered in 2025. By the end of August 2026, 1,144 households had been allocated new tenancies, representing more than 91% of the 1,259 new tenancy allocations completed during 2025.

The table below provides a breakdown of the 2025 and 2026 allocation activity, including allocations to households on the social housing waiting list, homeless households, the medical housing list, age-friendly, tenant-in-situ and transfers:

Allocations	2025	2026
CBL	583	669
CBL-Hap	302	199
CBL-HHAP	0	11
CBL-RFT	0	1
Financial Contribution Scheme	0	1
Homeless	206	135
Medical	77	48
Age Friendly	42	52
Tenant in Situ/Ras in Situ	49	17
Transfer of Tenancy	0	1
Mortgage to Rent	0	10
New Allocations	1,259	1,144
Transfers	51	18
RAS NTQ Transfers	62	40
Priority Transfers	32	13
Total Transfers	145	71
Overall Total	1,404	1,215

Q19/0926 **Councillor D. McManus**

To ask the Chief Executive if a financial figure is available for the amount paid in commercial rates by data centres to SDCC in recent years?

REPLY:

Data centres provide a significant source of income and have become an increasingly important source of funding through commercial rates, especially for Local Authorities in the Dublin region. South Dublin County Council is heavily reliant on the commercial rates income generated by the data centres within its administrative area.

Included in the table below is relevant information from 2024 to 2026:

	2024	2025	2026
Annual Budget	338,321,100	391,942,200	422,581,000
Annual Rates	145,432,500	153,170,200	157,614,100
Rates generated from Data Centres	28,746,486	31,320,945	35,092,935

In 2024, €28.7m of commercial rates income was generated from data centres, this is the equivalent of 19.8% of the total rates income.

By 2026 this has grown to €35.1m in commercial rates income, the equivalent of 22.3% of total rates income.

Q20/0926 **Councillor E. Ó Broin**

To ask the Chief Executive which directorate of SDCC engages with the contracted service provider overseeing road gully clearing?

REPLY:

Under the Road Sweeping and Associated Services Contract, routine gully cleaning is carried out on roads in urban areas. The contract is managed by Public Realm Operations.

Information on scheduled street sweeping and gully cleaning is available online at [SDCC Road Sweeping Schedule](#)

In rural areas, gully maintenance is carried out directly by the Council's Road Maintenance crews.

To make reporting easier, members of the public can report blocked gullies by emailing publicrealm@sdublincoco.ie.

When reporting a blocked gully, please include the location, the road name, and the nearest house number or Eircode where possible. The report will be assessed and forwarded to either the Council's contractor or the appropriate Road Maintenance crew for investigation and action.

Q21/0926 Councillor E. Ó Broin

To ask the Chief Executive what measures are put in place for grass cutting on open park lands during prolonged periods of dry weather?

REPLY:

The Dublin region experienced a prolonged dry spell during July and August, with very little rainfall for over two months. These conditions significantly reduced grass growth across parks, open spaces and roadside verges managed by South Dublin County Council.

As a result, many grassed areas turned brown and appeared dry. This is a normal response to prolonged dry weather and does not generally indicate permanent damage to established grass areas.

The reduced need for grass cutting allowed Parks and Public Realm staff to focus on increasing other maintenance activities across the county. These included:

- Playground inspections and repairs.
- Litter picking and removal of illegally dumped materials.
- Maintenance of pathways, park furniture and signage.
- Weeding and upkeep of planting beds.
- Tree and shrub maintenance.
- General park presentation and improvement works.

The rainfall experienced over the past week has resulted in grass growth beginning to recover across many locations. As growth rates continue to increase, mowing operations will be adjusted accordingly to ensure parks, open spaces and recreational areas are maintained to the required standard.

While the recent dry spell reduced grass growth and mowing requirements, it also provided an opportunity to undertake a range of maintenance and improvement works across parks and playgrounds. With the return of rainfall, grassed areas are now recovering, and the

Council will continue to manage its parks and open spaces to ensure they remain safe, attractive and accessible for all users

Q22/0926 Councillor E. Ó Broin

To ask the Chief Executive to list the roads that do not have paid parking or double yellow lines that South Dublin Parking Services patrol?

REPLY:

There is no list of roads within the South Dublin County Council administrative area that are exempt from parking enforcement patrols.

Due to the limited number of traffic wardens available, enforcement resources are prioritised in the main village, town centre and commercial areas where traffic volumes are highest and where parking turnover is critical to supporting businesses, accessibility and the efficient movement of traffic. As a result, regular patrol activity is generally concentrated in these locations rather than in predominantly residential areas.

However, all public roads remain subject to the relevant parking regulations and may be monitored by Parking Services who may, from time to time and as operational resources permit, undertake visits to residential or lower-demand areas. Such visits may involve advisory engagement, the issuing of warning notices, or patrols aimed at maintaining a visible enforcement presence.

Q23/0926 Councillor E. Ó Broin

To ask the Chief Executive to outline if there are any plans to increase the number of staff contracted by South Dublin Parking Services to monitor parking across the county?

REPLY:

The current parking services contract provides a comprehensive range of functions including enforcement, payment collection, reporting systems, mobile application support, credit card processing, maintenance of parking infrastructure and the replacement of parking machines. The annual contract value is provided for in the Council budget.

There are currently no plans to increase the number of staff engaged by South Dublin Parking Services to monitor parking across the

county. The level of resources provided under the existing contract is considered appropriate to current operational requirements and levels of parking enforcement activity. Any future review of resource requirements would be considered in the context of service demand, enforcement priorities and the associated financial implications.

It should also be noted that responsibility for the majority of parking and traffic enforcement functions rests with An Garda Síochána. The Council continues to work with An Garda Síochána and its parking enforcement contractor to target resources where they are most needed and to maximise the effectiveness of existing enforcement arrangements.

Q24/0926 Councillor E. Ó Broin

To ask the Chief Executive if it is incongruous that social housing tenants of AHBs do not have access to the SDCC Housing Welfare social workers?

REPLY:

Approved Housing Bodies (AHBs) are independent housing providers with responsibility for the management and sustainment of their own tenancies. As part of this function, AHBs have their own dedicated housing management and tenancy support staff who work directly with tenants to address tenancy-related issues, provide advice and assistance, and support the sustainment of tenancies wherever possible. Tenants experiencing difficulties are encouraged to engage with their designated Housing Officer or tenancy support staff at the earliest opportunity to access appropriate advice, guidance and support.

Q25/0926 Councillor L. O'Toole

To ask the Chief Executive to provide, by Area Committee area, a breakdown of biodiversity measures delivered through Public Realm works during the past 12 months.

REPLY:

A detailed breakdown of biodiversity measures by Area Committee is not available, as many biodiversity initiatives are planned, delivered and monitored on a county-wide basis. These measures are implemented through routine maintenance operations, capital projects, policy implementation and landscape management practices, rather than on an electoral area basis.

Biodiversity is incorporated into the management and development of the Council's parks, open spaces, public realm projects, Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) and development management processes.

Over the past 12 months, key biodiversity measures delivered through Public Realm works have included:

Management of approximately 210 hectares of pollinator and biodiversity meadows through ecological mowing and cut-and-collect practices. This exceeds the target set under the Council's previous Pollinator Action Plan by 51% and supports wildflowers, pollinators and other wildlife.

Continued implementation of pollinator-friendly management practices across parks, open spaces and road verges, including maintaining a glyphosate-free approach in parks, playgrounds and public gardens.

Ongoing planting and management of pollinator-friendly bulbs, with more than 7.5 million bulbs planted at over 90 locations across the county since 2019. These provide an important early-season food source for pollinators.

Management and restoration of over 400km of hedgerows, helping to strengthen ecological corridors and improve habitat connectivity throughout the county.

Annual planting of approximately 3,500 trees across parks, open spaces, streetscapes and public realm projects. The Council also manages approximately 80,000 street trees and an estimated 125,000 trees on Council-owned lands, delivering biodiversity, climate resilience, urban cooling and landscape benefits.

Expansion of mini woodlands and native tree planting initiatives at locations including Dodder Valley Park, Woodstown, Carrigmore Park, Oakwood Grove and Corkagh Park, with further planting planned at Waterstown Park. Since 2021, more than 44,000 native trees have been planted through these programmes.

Delivery of biodiversity-led planting and habitat creation schemes using native and pollinator-friendly species in parks, public open spaces and capital projects.

Collection of locally sourced wildflower seed from species-rich meadows to enhance existing meadow areas and restore sites affected by disturbance or construction works.

Ongoing maintenance and enhancement of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS), wetlands, attenuation areas, ponds and other green-

blue infrastructure, delivering benefits for biodiversity, water quality and climate resilience.

Continued operation and maintenance of the Council's Integrated Constructed Wetlands (ICWs) at Dodder Valley Park, Griffeen Valley Park and Tymon Park. These wetlands provide valuable habitat while also improving water quality. Biodiversity surveys undertaken at these sites recorded a combined total of 185 invertebrate taxa during the 2025 and 2026 survey periods.

Woodland management programmes across the county to improve woodland structure, strengthen habitat connectivity and support the long-term resilience of woodland habitats.

Monitoring and management of invasive plant species, including identification, mapping and control where necessary.

Adoption of the Council's Pollinator Action Plan 2026-2030, which contains 30 targeted actions to improve habitats and support pollinators across South Dublin County.

Continued implementation of the Council's Biodiversity Plan, Climate Action Plan, Green Infrastructure Strategy and Tree Management Policy, ensuring biodiversity objectives are embedded in the design, delivery and management of public realm projects and open spaces.

Delivery of community biodiversity initiatives, including biodiversity and pollinator walks, talks led by Park Rangers, community tree planting events and mini woodland planting projects.

Support for schools and community groups through initiatives such as tree distribution during National Tree Week, delivered in partnership with the Tree Council of Ireland, and participation in community biodiversity projects.

Public Realm continues to place biodiversity enhancement at the centre of its operations and capital project delivery. Biodiversity measures are integrated into project design, landscape management, habitat creation, nature-based solutions, SuDS infrastructure, tree planting programmes, meadow management and development management processes across the county.

Biodiversity and Development Management

Public Realm also plays an important role in the development management process by promoting biodiversity, implementing nature-based solutions and supporting the delivery of the County Green Infrastructure Strategy.

Key actions include:

Ensuring the principles of the County Green Infrastructure Strategy and Nature-Based Solutions are incorporated into the design of new developments.

Protecting and enhancing important ecological features, including trees, hedgerows, rivers, streams and wetlands.

Requiring new developments to incorporate nature-based Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS) that comply with Council policy and are integrated within the landscape.

Applying the Green Space Factor to development proposals to secure measurable biodiversity improvements.

Ensuring new parks and public open spaces contribute to and strengthen the county-wide Green Infrastructure Network.

Promoting a minimum 10-metre setback from riverbanks where appropriate to allow natural processes to take place, provide space for habitat restoration and support the rewilding of riparian corridors. Work is also underway to assess the Griffeen and Poddle river corridors and develop a framework for their future management and enhancement.

Promoting nature-based play by prioritising natural materials and surfaces and reducing reliance on plastics and synthetic products in playgrounds wherever possible.

Natural Water Operations

The Council continues to support biodiversity through its natural water operations, including:

The ongoing operation and maintenance of four Integrated Constructed Wetland (ICW) systems located at Dodder Valley Park (two locations), Griffeen Valley Park and the River Poddle in Tymon Park. These wetlands provide diverse wetland habitats while also treating water pollution.

Continued monitoring of biodiversity within these wetland systems through studies of aquatic and wetland invertebrates.

Surveys undertaken in 2025 and 2026 recorded a combined total of 185 invertebrate taxa. Of these, 35 taxa were recorded in both years, while 31 taxa were unique to the 2025 survey and 119 taxa were unique to the 2026 survey, highlighting the ecological value and diversity of these habitats.

Q26/0926 **Councillor L. O'Toole**

To ask the Chief Executive to identify any biodiversity-managed areas that have been removed, reduced or returned to conventional landscaping in the last 12 months including the reasons for those changes.

REPLY:

South Dublin County Council has significantly expanded its biodiversity management programme in recent years. In 2019, there were no formally managed pollinator meadow areas within the Council's parks and open space network. Since then, the Council has progressively implemented a countywide meadow management programme as part of its Biodiversity Plan, Green Infrastructure Strategy and Pollinator Action Plans.

This has resulted in the creation of approximately 210 hectares of biodiversity and pollinator-friendly meadows across the county, this exceeds the target set under the Council's previous Pollinator Action Plan by 51%. These areas are managed through ecological mowing and cut-and-collect regimes, involving reduced mowing and the removal of grass cuttings. Over time, this reduces soil nutrient levels, allowing native wildflowers to thrive, increasing plant diversity and preventing more vigorous species from dominating. These meadows provide important food sources and habitat for pollinators and other wildlife, improve ecological connectivity between parks and open spaces, and contribute to the wider Green Infrastructure network across South Dublin County. The programme forms part of a broader approach to biodiversity enhancement that includes hedgerow management, woodland management, tree planting, sustainable drainage systems, habitat creation and pollinator-friendly planting.

The Council has recently adopted its Pollinator Action Plan 2026-2030, which builds on the success of the previous plan and sets out 30 actions to further enhance habitats and support biodiversity across the county

Over the past 12 months, a limited number of biodiversity-managed areas have been modified to accommodate the community's needs:

- A portion of meadow habitat was repurposed to facilitate the development of new recreational infrastructure, including a GAA pitch and two soccer pitches.
- A meadow area adjacent to Griffeen Glen Wood in Griffeen Valley Park was returned to grass management to facilitate an informal play and recreational area for children.

Biodiversity-managed areas are reviewed on an ongoing basis to ensure an appropriate balance is maintained between biodiversity objectives, recreational and community needs. While meadow areas may be adjusted in certain locations over time, the Council continues to expand its biodiversity programme and actively identify new opportunities for meadow creation and enhancement in partnership with local communities and stakeholders.

As a result, the overall extent of biodiversity-managed areas within the county has continued to increase during the reporting period, with additional meadow areas established or expanded at Corkagh Park, Ballyowen Park, Collinstown Park, Willsbrook Park, Lucan Demesne, Tymon Park, Dodder Valley Park, Sean Walsh Park and Rathfarnham Castle Park.

Q27/0926 Councillor L. O'Toole

To ask the Chief Executive for a report detailing, for each of the past two years, the number of public lighting faults identified through the Council's monitoring system and the number first reported by members of the public, together with the average time taken from detection or report to repair in each category.

REPLY:

The public lighting network is monitored through a combination of the Council's Public Lighting (PL) team and reports received from members of the public. The table below sets out, for the past two years, the number of faults identified through each source and the average time taken to complete repairs.

Period	Faults Reported by Public	Average Days to Repair	Faults Identified by PL Team	Average Days to Repair
Aug 2024 – Aug 2025	708	15.6	1,573	15.4
Aug 2025 – Aug 2026	1,256	16.6	2,137	13.5

Q28/0926 Councillor L. O'Toole

To ask the Chief Executive for an update on the installation of signage recognising the gold, silver and bronze medal achievements of Tidy Towns groups within South Dublin County confirming which areas received medals, which have had the appropriate signage installed

and which remain outstanding including the expected timeframe for completion.

REPLY:

Tidy Towns groups receive ongoing support through regular engagement, practical assistance and funding for initiatives arising from recommendations contained in Tidy Towns Adjudicators' Reports. In 2025, funding of €82,000 was provided by SDCC to support local projects and activities.

Participation in the National Tidy Towns Competition continues to grow, with Adamstown, Knocklyon and Rathcoole entering for the first time in 2025, followed by Springfield's inaugural participation in 2026. This increasing level of involvement reflects the strong commitment of local volunteers and communities. It is particularly encouraging that four groups achieved scores in excess of 300 marks, while newer entrants have also embraced the competition and are making positive progress. The consistent improvement in scores achieved by participating groups demonstrates the sustained effort being invested in enhancing their local areas.

To build on these achievements and celebrate Lucan Tidy Towns' Gold Medal award, a Sustainability and Biodiversity Tidy Towns Event was hosted in April 2026, featuring a range of guest speakers. The Mayor presented the Lucan Tidy Towns Committee with its Gold Medal and congratulated the group on this significant achievement, acknowledging its role in inspiring other participating communities. The Climate Change and Environmental Awareness Officer for SDCC noted that the award reflected the group's consistent progress, following several years of Bronze Medal success, and recognised the commitment and dedication that contributed to this achievement. In addition, an artist engaged through the Dublin Canvas initiative has been commissioned to create a Gold Medal themed traffic light box artwork to commemorate the occasion.

To further recognise the contribution of Lucan Tidy Towns, procurement has recently commenced for the design, production and installation of a road sign acknowledging the group's Gold Medal status. Tidy Towns groups that hold gold, silver or bronze medal status may retain such signage for as long as that status is maintained in subsequent competitions. The Tidy Towns Unit of the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht advises that signs should be replaced or removed if a group's medal status changes. Once procured, arrangements will be made with Lucan Tidy

Towns regarding the location of the sign on one of the approach roads to the village.

Q29/0926 Councillor L. O'Toole

To ask the Chief Executive to examine the provision of appropriate wayfinding signage for sports clubs, community organisations and facilities throughout the County identifying where signage is currently lacking and how a programme of improved wayfinding signage could be progressed.

REPLY:

South Dublin County Council recognises the importance of clear and effective wayfinding signage in assisting residents and visitors to access sports clubs, community organisations, leisure facilities and other amenities throughout the County.

The Council currently has a framework for a specialist signage design consultant in place and is in the process of scoping the deliverables associated with the preparation of a **Countywide Urban Wayfinding Signage Manual**. The objective of this manual will be to establish a coherent and consistent approach to wayfinding across the County through the development of a clearly identifiable family of signs and associated SDCC branding that can be applied across relevant locations.

At present, wayfinding signage is already provided for a number of Council-owned leisure, sports and community facilities. As part of the proposed Countywide Urban Wayfinding Signage Manual a pilot for Tallaght Town Centre and Village will be undertaken to inform the Signage Manual and this will involve an assessment of existing signage provision as well as the identification of opportunities for enhancement where appropriate.

The question of which amenities and destinations should be included within a signage family for the County and pilot project area, as well as future wayfinding programmes, is yet to be determined. This assessment will form part of the process of finalising the Signage Manual. In considering future provision, the Council will seek to ensure that signage is targeted, legible and effective. It is envisaged that the Pilot Project and Manual will seek to avoid a significant proliferation of signage throughout the public realm, and it is likely that wayfinding will focus on major public amenities and destinations of general public interest.

The extent to which any additional sports clubs, community organisations and facilities may be included within the pilot area and under future wayfinding schemes, has also yet to be determined and will be considered as part of the process of finalising the Signage Manual.

Public consultation will form an important component of the deliverables and will provide an opportunity for stakeholders, community groups and the wider public to provide feedback on both the proposed signage family for the County and the categories of amenities that should be considered for inclusion. In addition, briefings/workshops will be held with the Elected Members as part of the deliverables to inform the development of the Countywide Urban Wayfinding Signage Manual and ensure local knowledge and priorities are reflected in the final recommendations.

The findings of the pilot project and manual will inform any future programme for the implementation of enhanced wayfinding signage across the County. It is envisaged that any necessary updates to the Countywide Urban Wayfinding Signage Manual will be carried out on phased basis subject to funding availability.

Q30/0926 Councillor J. Sinnott

To ask the Chief Executive if the Council has seen an increase in illegal dumping in 2026 over previous years?

REPLY:

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

1. Litter Prevention and Control
2. Community Engagement, Education and Environmental Awareness
3. Public Realm Operations
4. 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 incidents of illegal dumping reported or detected in any area are investigated by the Council's Litter Warden Service and all dumped material is searched for evidence. Where evidence is found, the

appropriate enforcement action is taken under the Litter Pollution Act 1997, as amended.

Based on the data recorded to date, the Council has not seen a significant increase in reports of illegal dumping in 2026 when compared with previous years. While the number of reports fluctuates from year to year, the 2026 figures to 31 August do not indicate an upward trend and remain below the total annual figures recorded in each of the previous four years. A definitive year-on-year comparison will be possible once the full 2026 calendar year has concluded.

The following statistics have been recorded on the Environmental Complaints System in relation to illegal dumping since 2022:

Year	No. of reports of illegal dumping
2022	988
2023	1318
2024	936
2025	1158
2026 (to end of August)	820

Q31/0926 Councillor J. Sinnott

To ask the Chief Executive to outline South Dublin County Council's approach to dealing with abandoned cars and vehicles.

REPLY:

All reports of Abandoned Vehicles received are investigated in the first instance by the Council's Litter Warden Service. The outcomes of most of the reports received, falls into four broad areas as follows:

1. The vehicle is either moved after the owner is contacted by the Council or the vehicle is not at the reported location when investigated.
2. The vehicle is in use or being sold/put back on the road by the owner
3. It is deemed to be a matter for An Garda Síochána to investigate under the Road Traffic Act
4. Relates to parking issues

Under Section 71 of the Waste Management Act, 1996, as amended an abandoned vehicle is described as a vehicle left in such

circumstances or for such a period that it is reasonable to assume that the vehicle has been abandoned. The following steps are taken under the legislation:

1. Investigation of vehicle reported
2. Ownership checks & enquires
3. Communications with the owners (where known)
4. Removal of abandoned vehicles.

Once all statutory notice periods have expired and the necessary approvals have been obtained, a final inspection is carried out. If the vehicle remains in place, removal arrangements are made.

It can take up to 12 weeks to complete the above procedure depending on its complexity and level of co-operation from other relevant bodies.

It should be noted that some complaints of "abandoned" cars are solely traffic related which are matters for the Gardai. Similarly, other reports relate to nuisance issues and are not in fact abandoned, such as:

- vehicles poorly parked
- vehicles causing an obstruction
- vehicles involved in residential parking disputes
- Broken down vehicles
- Untaxed and uninsured vehicles

For more information regarding abandoned vehicles, please see [**Abandoned Vehicles - SDCC**](#)

Q32/0926 [Councillor J. Sinnott](#)

To ask the Chief Executive what has been the average turnaround for vacant social units in 2026?

REPLY:

The average turnaround time for vacant social housing units, commonly referred to as voids, is monitored by the council as part of its housing management and re-let performance. The turnaround period can vary depending on the condition of the property when it is returned, the extent of works required, the availability of contractors, any health and safety or compliance works needed, and the time required to complete allocation and tenancy processes once the unit is ready for re-letting.

For 2026 to date, Housing has continued to prioritise bringing vacant social housing units back into productive use as quickly as possible,

while also ensuring that homes are returned in a safe, compliant and lettable condition. The works required can range from minor repairs and cleaning to more substantial refurbishment, including electrical, plumbing, heating, window and door, fire safety, damp remediation, energy efficiency, or adaptation works where required.

We work to minimise void periods through early inspection of properties, timely scoping of works, prioritisation of urgent re-lets, contractor engagement, and close coordination between housing maintenance, allocations and tenancy management teams. Where more extensive works are required, turnaround times will inevitably be longer; however, the objective remains to return each vacant unit to use at the earliest possible opportunity while maintaining appropriate standards for incoming tenants.

The average turnaround for vacant social housing units in 2026 is currently 21.45 week with 103 properties re-let as of 31 August 2026. We will continue to closely monitor void turnaround times, identify opportunities to reduce delays, improve the sequencing of works, and support the timely allocation of homes to households on the social housing waiting list. There are currently 62 vacant dwellings, representing approximately 0.58% of our total housing stock.

The table below outlines monthly re-let times to 31 August 2026, demonstrating the continued progress made and ongoing commitment to reducing void turnaround times:

Month	Turnaround (Weeks)
January	26.45
February	23.28
March	23.90
April	23.98
May	16.16
June	22.41
July	18.89
August	17.36
Total	21.45

Q33/0926 **Councillor J. Sinnott**

To ask the Chief Executive what preparations are being made for extreme rainfall events this coming winter?

REPLY:

South Dublin County Council (SDCC) has a Major Emergency Plan incorporating dedicated Severe Weather and Flood Emergency Plans. Where severe weather or flooding is forecast, the Council activates its Severe Weather Assessment Team (SWAT), comprising senior staff from across the organisation. The team monitors weather warnings and flood forecasts, coordinates the Council's response and, where practicable, directs advance measures to reduce potential impacts.

SWAT liaises with the National Emergency Coordination Group (NECG), where activated. The NECG coordinates the national response across government departments, local authorities, emergency services, Met Éireann and relevant agencies, including Transport Infrastructure Ireland and Uisce Éireann. It may also establish sub-groups to manage specific risks, including those affecting the Liffey catchment and Poulaphouca Reservoir.

Operational decisions are informed by Met Éireann warnings and its Daily Flood Guidance Statement, together with available forecasting systems such as the Irish Flood Integrated Communication System, MetWeb and the European Flood Awareness System. Council staff and crews continue to monitor these sources and any advice issued by Met Éireann throughout an event.

In advance of forecast extreme rainfall or storms, Council crews routinely clear debris from river screens and clean gullies at identified locations across the administrative area. During an event, Council maintenance crews and contractors are placed on standby to respond to emergencies as they arise.

Members of the public requiring assistance outside normal office hours may contact the Council's emergency number at 01 457 4907.

Public preparedness guidance is available through the Government's Be Emergency Ready campaign. SDCC's Climate Team has also published *A Public Health Guide for Climate Action*, which includes advice on staying safe during storms and is available on the Council's Climate Action website.

Useful links

[Be Emergency Ready](#)

[Public Health and Climate Action](#)

Q34/0926 Councillor J. Sinnott

To ask the Chief Executive if he could outline any additional progress that has been made on attracting investment and employment into the South Dublin County Council area?

REPLY:

The Council is currently rolling out the delivery of its Economic Strategy which seeks to create up to 1,500 jobs per annum and to grow the local economy from €22bn to €28bn per annum, with a focus on the development of employment sectors, the development of employment space, investment in people and skills, as well as the development of sustainable, well-managed communities that offer a high quality of life; all of which will collectively support inward investment and job creation.

The development of Grange Castle Business Park remains a key focus of the Council's economic development programme. Progress continues on strategic projects including the redevelopment of the 12th Lock Studios and Grange Cottage buildings, which will create direct employment opportunities while enhancing the attractiveness of the business park and its wider environs. Construction has commenced on the 12th Lock Studios development, while works on Grange Cottage are due to commence shortly.

Previous investment by the Council in infrastructure, including the Grange Castle Access Road, has helped facilitate the establishment of two significant employers on lands within the wider Grange Castle area. The Council also continues to work closely with the IDA and utility providers to ensure that infrastructure is maintained and developed in line with the ongoing growth and expansion of the area.

In addition, SDCC is currently engaged in substantive discussions with four potential clients regarding opportunities within the business park. While it is too early to provide details, these discussions demonstrate the continued strong interest in Grange Castle as a location for investment and employment growth.

More broadly, significant progress has been made in supporting enterprise development across the county. Work IQ currently has an occupancy level of approximately 65%, supporting 43 businesses, with employment within the centre increasing from 74 to 189 jobs. Waiting lists have already emerged for smaller office units, while medium-sized offices are expected to be fully allocated by year end. This demonstrates strong demand from start-ups and scaling SMEs and highlights the importance of maintaining a pipeline of suitable

employment space across South Dublin. In addition to the development of Work IQ, the Council are advancing the development of a new enterprise centre in Adamstown, which when delivered will further support SME's in the county.

Through the Local Enterprise Office, the Council has expanded its Business Support Fund with the introduction of four new schemes. These enhancements open funding opportunities to sectors, business types and geographic areas that would not previously have been eligible, ensuring that a broader range of enterprises can access support to invest, grow and create employment. The fund now supports initiatives including town and village activation, vacant unit reactivation, food business development and enterprise hubs, helping to stimulate economic activity and investment across the county. As part of South Dublin's Local Enterprise Office financial grants, a total of 28 jobs has been created year to date, with potential for the creation of 130 jobs for those businesses supported over a three-year period.

The Council also continues to maintain a strong working relationship with South Dublin Chamber. A joint programme is currently underway to map businesses located within the county's industrial areas, providing a more comprehensive understanding of the business landscape, employment profile, growth potential and infrastructure requirements. This evidence-based approach will help inform future economic development initiatives and business supports.

In parallel, the Local Enterprise Development Plan has been developed to provide a coordinated framework for enterprise growth across the county. The plan aligns closely with both the Council's Economic Strategy and the Local Economic and Community Plan, ensuring a joined-up approach to supporting business development, investment attraction, job creation and sustainable economic growth.

Separately, Economic Development and Planning have commenced early-stage discussions on future employment land identification to ensure that long-term economic growth opportunities can be appropriately planned for and accommodated through future strategic planning processes. Together, these initiatives reflect a broad and proactive approach to strengthening South Dublin's economic base, supporting indigenous enterprise, attracting investment and creating employment opportunities across the county.

Q35/0926 **Councillor A. Smyth**

To ask the Chief Executive for a report on current social housing waiting times, including the average time applicants wait before receiving an allocation, with a breakdown by housing type.

REPLY:

The table below outlines the average waiting time (in years) by property type for allocations completed to 31 August 2026 from the standard housing list:

Bedroom Size	Average Waiting Time
1 Bed	5.83
2 Bed	7.61
3 Bed	10.82
4 Bed *	17.27

* Six newly constructed four-bedroom homes were allocated to eligible households through our standard housing list. Of these, five 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.

Q36/0926 **Councillor A. Smyth**

To ask the Chief Executive for a list of all housing estates and parks currently undergoing the taking in charge process, together with the current stage reached in that process for each.

REPLY:

A comprehensive list of housing estates currently being actively progressed through the Taking in Charge (TIC) process is attached. The schedule sets out the current stage reached for each estate and identifies the principal actions remaining to enable completion of the process.

Each scheme completion needs the active support of the developers and the support of our specialist SDCC teams to sign off on the satisfactory completion of the different elements of the scheme. For example, parks, planning, drainage, roads and public lighting sections

must all sign off each specialist element of the estate.

The Council has a number of legacy estates that are not **currently** being progressed through the Taking in Charge process. Some estates have not formally been offered to the Council to be Taken in Charge, and in most cases like this, there is a legally constituted management company in place to manage the estate. The developer in some cases has gone into receivership, and therefore a key stakeholder is not in place to progress the TIC process. Where the developer has gone into receivership, in some cases a bank's or receiver's agent is appointed to carry out the role normally completed by the developer. Here the bank's or receiver's agents carries out the completion works which assist the completion of the TIC process.

Q36 (b) Schedule of active taking in charge estates

Q37/0926 Councillor J. Spear

To ask the Chief Executive what responsibilities the Council has to ensure tenants in developments managed by Approved Housing Bodies, the Land Development Agency or Owner Management Companies have a fair and transparent opportunity to apply for available car parking spaces, and what arrangements are in place to achieve this.

REPLY:

Our role in relation to car parking for council tenants in multi-unit developments is determined by the ownership, management and legal structure of each individual development. In many apartment and mixed-tenure schemes, car parking spaces are not controlled directly by the council but are managed under the terms of the management company rules, or procedures operated by an Approved Housing Body (AHB), the Land Development Agency (LDA), or an Owner Management Company (OMC).

Where the council is the property owner within a multi-unit development, it will seek to ensure that tenants are provided with clear information on the arrangements that apply within that scheme, including how any available parking space may be applied for, the criteria used to allocate spaces, any applicable charges, and any restrictions that form part of the management rules for the development.

In developments owned and managed by an AHB, they are the property owner and the residents are tenants of that AHB, not

tenants of the council. In those cases, the AHB is responsible for advising its tenants of the parking arrangements that apply and for engaging with any relevant management company or other managing body in relation to access to car parking.

Where the council leases properties from the LDA or other property owners, the residents of those properties are council tenants. However, the parking arrangements and management rules that apply within the wider development continue to apply to those properties.

We liaise, as appropriate, with AHBs, the LDA and OMCs to clarify the parking arrangements that apply in individual developments and to ensure that social housing tenants are not excluded from any application process where they are eligible to apply. However, we cannot guarantee the availability of a parking space in every development, as the number of spaces is often limited and may be subject to accessibility requirements, visitor parking provisions, or wider estate management considerations.

When a property is advertised on Choice Based Letting (CBL), we always state whether car parking is available as part of the property advert. Tenants who have a specific query about car parking in a property they are considering expressing an interest in should contact our Housing Allocations section in the first instance to clarify the arrangements that apply to that development.

Q38/0926 Councillor F. Timmons

To ask the Chief Executive would he consider providing community centres bins for waste disposal as in picture to help them meet waste disposal legislation requirements and environmental issues?

REPLY:

Community centres are managed by independent Boards of Management and responsibility for the day-to-day management and operation of these facilities, including waste disposal arrangements and compliance with waste management legislation, rests with the relevant governing body.

Community centres make their own waste collection and disposal arrangements through authorised waste service providers. While SDCC does not currently provide waste bins or waste collection services to community centres, it actively promotes and supports sustainable waste management practices across the community sector.

The Government-funded MyWaste.ie website is a valuable resource for both community organisations and businesses, providing practical guidance and tools to support effective waste management. Resources available include educational materials, posters, bin labels and guidance booklets, which can be downloaded or ordered directly from: <https://mywaste.ie/dispose-waste/in-your-workplace/>.

Q39/0926 Councillor F. Timmons

To ask the Chief Executive to issue a detailed report into what progress has been made in the review of council buildings and how they will be made available for community use?

REPLY:

Clondalkin Civic Offices and County Hall are primarily operational buildings accommodating public services, meetings, Council staff, elected members, tenants and other users. Any request for community use of public areas within these buildings must be considered in the context of existing activities and must not adversely affect the delivery of Council services.

The review currently underway at County Hall is focused principally on workspace and operational requirements. As part of this process, opportunities to enhance or expand the use of publicly accessible spaces for community purposes will be considered, where this can be achieved without impacting the building's primary functions.

To date, no specific proposals have been agreed arising from the review. Any opportunities identified will be assessed with regard to operational, security, accessibility, health and safety, and resource considerations.

A review of the use of Clondalkin Civic Offices, including the potential to provide some community space, is also due to be carried out. In the short term, the concourse area will be used to accommodate temporary library services during the refurbishment of Clondalkin Library, which is scheduled to commence in early 2027.

The Council will continue to examine appropriate opportunities for community use of available public spaces within its buildings through the ongoing review process.

Q40/0926 **Councillor F. Timmons**

To ask the Chief Executive what progress has been made to employ someone to act as curator/person for SDCC tourism offerings within the County?

REPLY:

The Council engaged a consultant to undertake a Visitor Attraction Assets Assessment and Operational Model Recommendation for its current and future tourism assets. The assessment examined the governance, management, operational and outsourcing requirements of these assets and sought to identify the most appropriate operating model to support visitors, local communities and the county's long-term development.

The consultant's report has recently been finalised. Its preferred recommendation is the establishment of a single overarching entity to oversee and operate the Council's portfolio of visitor attractions. The report notes that, should the Council decide to proceed with this approach, legal advice should be obtained regarding the most appropriate company structure. It also recommends a phased, capability-led approach, reflecting the differing stages of development and operational maturity across the portfolio.

The Council currently has one operational tourism asset (The Round Tower Visitor Centre), with the majority of tourism projects at planning stage. As such, the Council's tourism offering is still at an early phase of development and requires a continued focus on product and visitor experience development. The report's findings are currently under consideration and will inform future decisions regarding the management and operation of the Council's tourism assets.

Q41/0926 **Councillor F. Timmons**

To ask the Chief Executive for a report into SDCC twinning arrangements and how they are maintained in terms of contact?

REPLY:

SDCC entered into twinning arrangements with the London Borough of Brent and Kreis Segeberg in Germany in 1997. There have been no activities under these arrangements since 2008 and there are limited records in relation to contact prior to that. There has been recent contact from the London Borough of Brent to discuss the future of the twinning arrangement.

The Council supported a community twinning arrangement between Rathcoole and Ecole Valentine in France, and a visit took place in 2016.

The Council also has a 'Sister Cities Agreement' with Tampa, Florida and the last contact was in June 2016.

Section 75 of the Local Government Act 2001 sets out the criteria for Twinning:

(1) A local authority may enter into arrangements for the twinning of its administrative area or a part of it or establish other similar links with any other area, whether within or outside the State.

(2) The decision to enter into an arrangement under subsection (1) is a reserved function.

(3) A local authority shall not enter into an arrangement under subsection (1) unless, having had regard to the following matters, it is satisfied that the arrangement is justified:

(a) the benefits likely to accrue to its administrative area and the local community,

(b) the social, cultural and general interests of its administrative area and the local community, and

(c) the total cost involved.

(4) The Minister may issue directions to local authorities or specified classes of local authorities for the purposes of this section.

(5) There shall be recorded in the annual report of a local authority for every year expenditure and other particulars in relation to the performance of its functions under this section.

Q42/O926 Councillor F. Timmons

To ask the Chief Executive for a detailed report into what progress has been made on storage issues for community groups?

REPLY:

South Dublin County Council recognises the importance of appropriate storage arrangements in supporting the effective operation of community and voluntary groups across the County. We do not, however, generally provide dedicated storage facilities for individual community groups, and responsibility for the storage of equipment, materials and other operational resources normally rests with the groups concerned.

Where storage related matters are raised, Community Officers engage directly with the relevant groups to consider whether practical options may be available within existing community facilities or through local arrangements, having regard to the availability of space, operational requirements, management arrangements and competing demands for community infrastructure.

In addition, the Climate Action team continues to support the work of Tidy Towns groups including the exploration of ways to assist the groups in meeting their storage needs in a practical, sustainable and cost-effective manner.

While suitable space remains limited, we will continue to engage with community groups, where feasible, to identify practical solutions within existing resources and local circumstances.

Q43/O926 Councillor Joanna Tuffy

To ask the Chief Executive for an update on what role South Dublin County Council has in relation to housing for Ukrainian residents with temporary protection following the ending of state supports including state contracted accommodation.

REPLY:

SDCC does not determine eligibility for, or administer, the State accommodation supports for Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection. Responsibility for these arrangements rests with the Department of Justice, Home Affairs and Migration, as part of the Government's transition from the emergency accommodation model introduced in 2022.

While the council does not administer this process, it continues to engage with relevant State agencies and local integration partners to support local communities and to provide information where appropriate. Residents affected by the ending of State-contracted accommodation should contact the Department directly at ukrainetempaccom@justice.ie. Information and support may also be available through the Irish Red Cross, the International Organization for Migration and the local Intreo office, including advice on supports that may assist households seeking accommodation in the private rental market.

Q44/0926 **Councillor N. Whelan**

To ask the Chief Executive what the process is for collection or safe disposal of nitrous oxide cannisters within the community, specifically if they are dumped in residents' gardens or on private property.

REPLY:

The Council is currently in the process of appointing a contractor to dispose of nitrous oxide canisters.

The illegal dumping of nitrous oxide canisters has become an increasing issue in a number of locations across the county. To date, over 2,000 canisters have been collected through Council clean-up operations and through support provided to community groups undertaking local clean-up initiatives.

In addition to their impact on the appearance of public spaces, discarded canisters may present health and safety risks to members of the public and community volunteers.

As nitrous oxide canisters require specialist disposal, the estimated cost of disposing of the canisters collected to date is in the region of €20,000. These costs are being met from existing Council resources but place additional pressure on Public Realm maintenance budgets.

Given the increasing number of canisters being reported and collected, additional budget provision will be required in future years to support the safe collection, storage and disposal of these materials.

Where community groups collect discarded nitrous oxide canisters from gardens or private property, they can contact the Public Realm Section at publicrealm@sdublincoco.ie. Arrangements can then be made for the canisters to be collected or for a suitable drop-off location to be agreed.

The Council will continue to monitor the issue and encourages the public to report locations where nitrous oxide canisters have been dumped so that appropriate clean-up and enforcement action can be taken where necessary.

H6/0926 **DECLARATION OF ROADS TO BE MADE PUBLIC ROADS**

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

PROPOSED DISPOSAL OF PROPERTIES/SITES - FOR APPROVAL

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

(a) Disposal of fee simple in 1A Station Road, Clondalkin, Dublin 22 – GR194.

(a)(i) Report - 1A Station Road, Clondalkin, Dublin 22

(a)(ii) Map - 1A Station Road, Clondalkin, Dublin 22

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

“That the disposal of fee simple in 1A Station Road, Clondalkin, Dublin 22 be **ADOPTED** and **APPROVED**.”

(b) Disposal of fee simple in 19 Avonbeg Road, Tallaght, Dublin 24.

(b)(i) Report - 19 Avonbeg Road, Tallaght, Dublin 24

(b)(ii) Map - 19 Avonbeg Road, Tallaght, Dublin 24

The report was **NOTED** and it was proposed by Councillor F. Timmons, seconded by Councillor N. Whelan and **RESOLVED:**

“That the disposal of fee simple in **19** Avonbeg Road, Tallaght, Dublin 24 be **ADOPTED** and **APPROVED**.”

(c) Disposal of substation site to ESB at Alpine Heights, Clondalkin

(c)(i) Report - LD 1615 Proposed Disposal of substation site to ESB at Alpine Heights, Clondalkin

(c)(ii) Map - LD 1615 Proposed Disposal of substation site to ESB at Alpine Heights, Clondalkin

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

“That the Proposed disposal of substation site to ESB at Alpine Heights, Clondalkin be **ADOPTED** and **APPROVED**.”

(d) Disposal of Land at rear of 4A Esker Cottages, Lucan, Co. Dublin, K78 K4H1

(d)(i) Report - LD 1622 Proposed Disposal of Land at rear of 4A Esker Cottages, Lucan, Co. Dublin, K78 K4H1

(d)(ii) Map - LD 1622 Proposed Disposal of Land at rear of 4A Esker Cottages, Lucan, Co. Dublin, K78 K4H1

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

“That the disposal of a plot of land at rear of 4A Esker Cottages, Lucan, Co. Dublin, K78 K4H1 be **ADOPTED** and **APPROVED.**”

H8/0926 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 8 (a) Chief Executive's Report - September 2026

HI 8 (b) Statistics Report - August 2026

HI 8 (b) Statistics Report - July 2026

HI 8 (c) Finance Report

*The reports were **NOTED.***

H9/0926 OUTDOOR ADVERTISING PART 8 - FOR APPROVAL

The members were informed by the Mayor, Councillor F. Timmons that the Council has been made aware that an Environmental Impact Assessment screening determination request relating to the Outdoor Advertising Part 8 has been made to An Coimisiún Pleanála by a third party, the Outdoor Advertising Part 8 has been removed from the agenda for the September Council meeting.

The Council will revert in due course for an update on this Part 8 following the EIA screening determination by An Coimisiún Pleanála

It was proposed by Councillor F. Timmons and the members **AGREED** that Headed Items 10 - 15 be taken together.

The reports by the Chief Executive, which had been circulated, were presented by Ms. J. Helbert, Senior Engineer and were **CONSIDERED**

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors L. de Courcy, D. Donnelly, R. McMahon, L. O'Toole, P. Kearns, P. Holohan, E. Ó Broin, and W. Carey with queries on heat pumps, noise levels, solar panels, BER reports, car parking and acoustic barriers.

Ms. J. Helbert, Senior Engineer, responded to the members queries.

H10/0926 INSTALLATION OF ROOFTOP SOLAR PV AT SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL, COUNTY HALL AND LIBRARY, TALLAGHT, DUBLIN 24, D24 XOWP PART 8 - FOR APPROVAL

HI 10(a) Part 8 Approval - Chief Executive's Report for the Installation of rooftop solar PV at County Hall and Library, Tallaght.

HI 10(b) Presentation on Part 8 Reports

It was proposed by Councillor F. Timmons, seconded by Councillor E. Murphy and **AGREED** that the Council proceed with the Part 8 proposal for the Installation of rooftop solar PV at South Dublin County Council County Hall and Library, Tallaght, Dublin 24, D24 XOWP.

H11/0926 INSTALLATION OF A HEAT PUMP SYSTEM AT CIVIC THEATRE, PARTHALÁN PLACE, BELGARD RD, TALLAGHT, DUBLIN, D24 NWN7 PART 8 - FOR APPROVAL

HI 11 Part 8 Approval - Chief Executive's Report for the installation of a heat pump system at Civic Theatre, Tallaght

It was proposed by Councillor F. Timmons, seconded by Councillor A. Smyth and **AGREED** that the Council proceed with the Part 8 proposal for the installation of a heat pump system at Civic Theatre, Parthalán Place, Belgard Rd, Tallaght, Dublin, D24 NWN7.

H12/0926 INSTALLATION OF A HEAT PUMP SYSTEM AT RUA RED, TALLAGHT, DUBLIN, D24 KV8N PART 8 - FOR APPROVAL

HI 12 Part 8 Approval - Chief Executive's Report for the installation of a a heat pump system at Rua Red, Tallaght

It was proposed by Councillor F. Timmons, seconded by Councillor P. Kearns and **AGREED** that the Council proceed with the Part 8 proposal for installation of a heat pump system Rua Red, Tallaght, Dublin, D24 KV8N.

H13/0926 INSTALLATION OF A HEAT PUMP SYSTEM AT CLONDALKIN CIVIC CENTRE, NINTH LOCK RD, CLONDALKIN, DUBLIN 22, D22 E9X5 PART 8 - FOR APPROVAL

HI 13 Part 8 Approval - Chief Executive's Report for the installation of a heat pump system at Clondalkin Civic Centre

It was proposed by Councillor F. Timmons, seconded by Councillor R. McMahon and **AGREED** that the Council proceed with the Part 8 proposal for the installation of a heat pump system at Clondalkin Civic Centre, Ninth Lock Rd, Clondalkin, Dublin 22, D22 E9X5.

H14/0926 INSTALLATION OF ROOFTOP SOLAR PV AND HEAT PUMP SYSTEM AT TALLAGHT LEISURE CENTRE, FORTUNESTOWN WAY, TALLAGHT, DUBLIN 24, D24KX38 PART 8 - FOR APPROVAL

HI 14 Part 8 Approval - Chief Executive's Report on the installation of rooftop solar PV and a heat pump system at Tallaght Leisure Centre

It was proposed by Councillor F. Timmons, seconded by Councillor R. Mannion and **AGREED** that the Council proceed with the Part 8 proposal for the installation of rooftop solar PV and heat pump system at Tallaght Leisure, Fortunestown Way, Tallaght, Dublin 24, D24KX38.

H15/0926 INSTALLATION OF A HEAT PUMP SYSTEM AND ROOFTOP SOLAR PV ARRAY AT CLONDALKIN LEISURE CENTRE, NANGOR ROAD, CLONDALKIN, DUBLIN 22, D22E283 PART 8 - FOR APPROVAL

HI 15 Part 8 Approval - Chief Executive's Report on the installation of rooftop solar PV and a heat pump system at Clondalkin Leisure Centre

It was proposed by Councillor F. Timmons, seconded by Councillor E. Murphy and **AGREED** that the Council proceed with the Part 8 proposal for installation of rooftop solar PV and heat pump system at Clondalkin Leisure Centre, Nangor Road, Clondalkin, Dublin 22, D22 E283.

**H16/0926 HEAVY GOODS VEHICLES WEIGHT RESTRICTION REVIEW UPDATE
- FOR NOTING**

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**.

(a) Presentation on HGV Weight Restrictions Review 2026

(b) Report on HGV Weight Restriction Review 2026

(c) HGV Weight Restriction Review Map and Weight Limit Description

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors L. O'Toole, A. Hayes, E. Murphy, A. Edge, D. Loftus, E. Ó Broin, H. Farrell, R. McMahon and W. Carey with queries on Garda consultation, Google maps, signage, quarry traffic and enforcement.

Mr. E. Burke, Director of Planning and Transport and Mr. J.J. Hegarty, Senior Engineer responded to the members queries.

*The report was **NOTED**.*

**H17/0926 FILLING OF VACANCY ON THE INTER-LOCAL AUTHORITY SPECIAL
COMMITTEE ON FIRE & AMBULANCE SERVICES AND EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT FOLLOWING THE RESIGNATION OF COUNCILLOR
L. DUNNE - FOR APPROVAL**

A vacancy exists on the Inter-Local Authority Special Committee on Fire & Ambulance Services and Emergency Management following the resignation of Councillor L. Dunne. 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 L. Dunne, seconded by Councillor F. Timmons and **AGREED** that Councillor W. Carey fills the vacancy on the Inter-Local Authority Special Committee on Fire & Ambulance Services and Emergency Management.

H18/0926 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**.

H18 Community and Sport Development Grants

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors W. Carey and J. Tuffy with queries regarding receipts and Arts Network grants.

Ms. E. Clancy, Director of Communication responded to the members queries.

*The report was **NOTED**.*

C1/0926 REPLIES, ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS & CORRESPONDENCE

Replies

(a) Department of Culture, Communications and Sport - Digital Wallet

(b) Office of An Taoiseach - Reunification of Ireland -M10_0726

Acknowledgements

(c) Acknowledgement from Department of the Taoiseach regarding M10/0726

(d) Acknowledgement from Department of the Taoiseach regarding M09/0726

Correspondence

(e) Correspondence received from Leitrim County Council - 0709 Renewable Energy Projects

(f) Correspondence received from Leitrim County Council - 0710 Dedicated Cabinet Minister for Construction and Infrastructure

(g) Correspondence received from Leitrim County Council - 0711 National Investment to protect and maximise existing social housing stock.

(h) Correspondence received from Carlow County Council

(i) Correspondence received from Carlow County Council

(j) Correspondence received from Louth County Council

(k) Correspondence received from Roscommon County Council - CE Scheme Eligibility

(l) Correspondence received from Roscommon County Council - Cost Rental Scheme

(a) Reply from Department of Culture, Communications and Sport - Digital Wallet

(b) Reply from Office of An Taoiseach from July Council - Reunification of Ireland -M10_0726

(c) Acknowledgement from Department of the Taoiseach regarding M10/0726

(d) Acknowledgement from Department of the Taoiseach regarding M09/0726

(e) Correspondence received from Leitrim County Council - 0709 Renewable Energy Projects

(f) Correspondence received from Leitrim County Council - 0710 Dedicated Cabinet Minister for Construction and Infrastructure

(g) Correspondence received from Leitrim County Council - 0711 National Investment to protect and maximise existing social housing stock.

(h) Correspondence received from Carlow County Council

(i) Correspondence received from Carlow County Council

(j) Correspondence received from Louth County Council

(k) Correspondence received from Roscommon County Council - CE Scheme Eligibility

(l) Correspondence received from Roscommon County Council - Cost Rental Scheme

*The correspondence was **NOTED**.*

Mayor's Business

M1/0926 Right to a home referendum

It was proposed by Councillor F. Timmons, seconded by Councillor J. Spear

That this Council calls on the government to start the process for a referendum to be held on the right to a home.

REPORT:

If the motion is passed, letters will be issued to an Taoiseach, and the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage; the responses, when received, will be circulated to the Members.

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors K. Keane, L. De Courcy, M. Johansson, W. Carey, P. Kearns, J. Tuffy, P. Holohan and Y. Collins.

*The motion was **AGREED**.*

M2/0926 Inheritance tax

It was proposed by Councillor F. Timmons seconded by Councillor H. Farrell and **MOVED WITHOUT DEBATE**

That this Council endorses the End Discrimination of Inheritance Tax (EDIT) campaign and calls on the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality, Norma Foley and Tánaiste and Minister for Finance, Simon Harris to commit to harmonising the inheritance laws and bands so that people with no direct descendants are treated as equal to families with children in inheritance law and succession planning.

REPORT:

If the motion is passed letters will be issued to the Minister for Equality, Norma Foley, and Tánaiste & Minister for Finance Simon Harris; the responses, when received, will be circulated to the Members.

*The motion was **AGREED**.*

Motions relevant to Council business

M3/0926 Biodiversity and privately owned lands

Proposed by Councillor H. Farrell, seconded by Councillor F. Timmons

That this Council, noting the commitments in the South Dublin County Council Pollinator Action Plan 2026–2030, Biodiversity Action Plan, Green Infrastructure Strategy and Climate Action Plan, and Maynooth University research highlighting the potential of industrial estates, business parks and other enterprise lands to support pollinator corridors and ecological connectivity, calls on the Chief Executive to examine and report on how the Council's existing biodiversity and pollinator objectives could be extended beyond Council-owned lands through engagement with management companies, employers, landowners and business park operators.

REPORT:

South Dublin County Council recognises the potential of business parks, industrial estates and other enterprise lands to support pollinator habitat, ecological connectivity and climate resilience. This is consistent with the Council's Pollinator Action Plan 2026–2030, Biodiversity Action Plan, Green Infrastructure Strategy, County Development Plan and Climate Action Plan 2024–2029.

County Development Plan EDE1 Objective 6 supports lower-emission enterprise development, sustainable transport, renewable energy, and additional native planting and landscaping in enterprise areas. Together with the Green Infrastructure Strategy and minimum Green Space Factor requirements, it promotes greener development, carbon sequestration, quality placemaking and stronger habitat networks beyond individual sites.

These objectives are advanced through the development management process, including requirements for native and pollinator-friendly planting, hedgerow protection, Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems, woodland planting and other green infrastructure measures. The Council also notes Maynooth University research identifying practical opportunities for enterprise sites, such as reduced-mow areas and other site-appropriate measures.

The Climate Action Plan and Clondalkin Decarbonising Zone Implementation Plan also support collaboration with businesses through existing Council programmes, including community climate action, climate innovation and stakeholder engagement.

As resources permit, the Council will engage with management companies, employers, landowners, business park operators and representative bodies to identify voluntary actions, delivery barriers and potential pilot initiatives.

Measures on privately owned or managed lands will depend on landowner and operator cooperation and remain subject to operational, safety, maintenance and resource considerations.

A further report can be brought to the Environment, Public Realm & Climate Change SPC if substantive options or partnership opportunities emerge.

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors H. Farrell, Y. Collins and L. McCrave.

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

*The motion was **AGREED**.*

M4/O926 Tourist Passport Sep-2026

It was proposed by Councillor J. Sinnott, seconded by Councillor P. Cosgrave

That this Council calls on the Chief Executive to develop a new tourism initiative - "The South Dublin Explorer Passport" with the aim of promoting and encouraging visitors to South Dublin attractions and sites and supporting the existing South Dublin tourism strategy which runs to 2029.

REPORT:

The Council welcomes this motion and recognises the potential value of a South Dublin Explorer Passport as a means of promoting and encouraging visits to attractions, heritage sites, cultural amenities and visitor experiences across the county, while supporting the objectives of the Council's Tourism Strategy.

The Tourism section is currently at the preliminary exploratory stage of considering such an initiative, as part of its ongoing commitment to promoting South Dublin's unique attractions, activities, culture and heritage. The concept of a visitor passport aligns with the Council's broader aim of enhancing the visitor experience, encouraging greater engagement with local destinations, increasing awareness of the diverse tourism offering available throughout the county and supporting local business.

To inform this process, information has been sought from local authorities that have already implemented similar passport schemes. This engagement will assist in identifying best practice in relation to the design, delivery, administration and promotion of such initiatives, as well as assessing their effectiveness in increasing visitor numbers and supporting local tourism development. The findings from this research will help determine the feasibility and potential benefits of introducing a South Dublin Explorer Passport. In the meantime, the Council remains committed to exploring innovative ways to promote South Dublin as a vibrant and attractive visitor destination.

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors J. Sinnott, P. Cosgrave, E. Murphy, L. De Courcy and H. Farrell.

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

*The motion was **AGREED**.*

M5/0926

Retention Permission

It was proposed by Councillor L. de Courcy, seconded by Councillor G. Moore

That this Council shall adopt a proactive, sympathetic and facilitative policy towards applications for retention permission in respect of habitable residential accommodation located within the curtilage of an existing dwelling, where that accommodation is in use as a home, and in the exercise of its enforcement discretion under Part VIII of the Planning and Development Act 2000, the Council shall have regard to the acute shortage of housing and to the fact that enforcement against a unit that is functioning as somebody's home removes a dwelling from the county's housing stock at the worst possible moment.

REPORT:

The Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) requires the Planning Authority to assess each application for retention permission on its individual merits, having regard to the provisions of the Development Plan, relevant planning policy and guidance, the proper planning and sustainable development of the area, and any other material considerations.

While the Planning Department recognises the ongoing challenges associated with housing supply and the importance of maintaining residential accommodation where appropriate, it is not legally possible to adopt a blanket policy that would automatically favour or facilitate the granting of retention permission for unauthorised residential accommodation. Retention applications must be assessed in the same manner as other planning applications and cannot be prejudged in advance of a formal planning assessment.

In exercising its functions under the Planning and Development Act 2000, including planning enforcement powers, the Planning Department applies a proportionate and risk-based approach and exercises its statutory discretion on a case-by-case basis. In doing so, regard is had to the nature and extent of the unauthorised development, the planning history of the site, the impacts on residential amenity, public safety, environmental considerations, development plan objectives, evidence and all relevant circumstances pertaining to the case.

The Council recognises that planning enforcement action affecting residential accommodation may have significant implications for occupants. However, the Planning Authority must carefully balance these impacts with its statutory obligation to uphold planning

legislation and ensure orderly and sustainable development throughout the County.

Accordingly, while housing need may be a relevant consideration in appropriate circumstances, the Council cannot commit to a general policy of adopting a proactive, sympathetic and facilitative approach to all retention applications for residential accommodation, nor can it predetermine its approach to the exercise of its planning and enforcement functions.

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors L. de Courcy, J. Sinnott, Y. Collins, P. Kearns and W. Carey with queries regarding planning laws.

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

A **Roll Call Vote**, on the motion was called for in the names of Councillors L. De Courcy, G. Moore and P. Holohan, the result of which is as follows:

FOR 8 (EIGHT)

Councillors W. Carey, L. De Courcy, D. Donnelly, P. Holohan, M. Johansson, D. Loftus, G. Moore and D. Richardson

AGAINST 25 (TWENTY-FIVE)

Councillors S. Barnes, C. Brady, Y. Collins, P. Cosgrave, L. Dunne, A. Edge, H. Farrell, T. Gilligan, A. Hayes, K. Keane, P. Kearns, G. Kenny, R. Mannion, L. McCrave, T. McDonald, R. McMahon, D. McManus, E. Murphy, L. O'Toole, Baby Pereppadan, Britto Pereppadan, A. Smyth, J. Spear, F. Timmons and J. Tuffy.

ABSTAIN 3 (THREE)

Councillors S. Duff, J. Sinnott and N. Whelan.

As a result of the **Roll Call Vote** the motion **FELL**.

M6/0926 TPO criteria-based assessment

It was proposed by Councillor Y. Collins, seconded by Councillor F. Timmons

That the Chief Executive puts in place a criteria based approach to facilitate a process whereby an evaluation could be carried out on a phased basis, to identify trees of amenity value within the County, starting with those likely to be more at risk, with a view to making

them the subject of Tree Preservation Orders or otherwise protecting them, and to furnish information to the public in this regard pursuant to Policy NCBH11 Objective 2 of our County Development Plan.

REPORT:

Policy NCBH of the County Development Plan has a number of associated objectives and states:

Review Tree Preservation Orders (TPO) within the County and maintain the conservation value of trees and groups of trees that are the subject of a Tree Preservation Order while also recognising the value of and protecting trees and hedgerows which are not subject to a TPO.

Section 205 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) is the current relevant legislation for a Tree Preservation Order (TPO). As per Section 205(1), if it appears to the planning authority that it is expedient, in the interests of amenity or the environment, to make provision for the preservation of any tree, trees, group of trees or woodlands, it may, for that purpose and for stated reasons, make an order with respect to any such tree, trees, group of trees or woodlands as may be specified in the order.

Under the new Planning and Development Act 2024, TPOs are legislated for in Section 267. It is understood that this part of the 2024 Act is due to be commenced in late September/October 2026.

While assessing a request for a TPO and initiating a TPO statutory process is an executive function, the making of a TPO is a reserved function of the Council and needs to include stated reasons to inform decision making. It is noted that Section 267(12) of the 2024 Act outlines that a person, in writing, or the members, by resolution, may request the planning authority to propose the making of an order and the planning authority / Chief Executive may, where it considers it appropriate, do so. An assessment will be required to inform the chief executive's view on the appropriateness or otherwise of a proposed TPO before any formal statutory process commences.

It is noted that there are no current TPO Guidelines to support the assessment methodology, the last ones being related to the 1963 Local Government (Planning and Development) Act. Therefore, it is considered that the proposal in the motion to put in place a criteria-based approach to assessment would provide the potential for a robust methodology for assessment which could be shared with the public. It is noted that the 2024 Act, unlike the 2000 Act, requires the statutory notice to contain the grounds on which it is proposed to

make the order. Having regard to the above an initial scoping of criteria can be examined having regard to the purpose of the Act to preserve trees where it is considered expedient in the interests of amenity or the environment, including environmental metrics for assessing the quality of trees.

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors Y. Collins, L. O'Toole, H. Farrell, J. Sinnott, L. McCrave, C. Brady and P. Kearns with queries regarding phased evaluation, curtilage, timelines and the Living with Trees policy.

Mr. E. Burke, Director of Planning and Transportation replied to the members' queries.

*The motion was **AGREED**.*

M7/0926 Detecting and reporting faulty public streetlights

It was proposed by Councillor L. O'Toole, seconded by Councillor F. Timmons

That the Chief Executive reviews the technology currently used to detect and report faulty public streetlights and in line with the Council's ambition to be a more digital Council examines introducing a more streamlined system incorporating automatic fault detection and simple location-based reporting for residents.

REPORT:

SDCC currently has a location-based fault management system called Deadsure. This system records and tracks faulty public lighting and retains a history of works carried out. This system is currently used across the country successfully by other local authorities.

The recording of faults is primarily carried out on a manual inspection system provided by our contractor, which ensures that every public light is inspected on a fortnightly basis. This is supplemented by a direct fault reporting phone line available to all residents and elected members. The current approach has the advantage of being able to report on the overall condition of the public lighting column, not just the outage status.

Regarding automatic fault detection, SDCC currently operates an automated control and monitoring system for lighting installations at some locations in the county such as The Dodder Valley. SDCC are monitoring the automated control and monitoring system marketplace. Currently, there is a lack of compatibility between some luminaire manufacturers and control and management

suppliers. However, SDCC have future proofed their fittings by specifying that all luminaires be control and management system compliant. This enables a potential future roll out of a control and management system if the operational conditions were deemed suitable and yielded an overall cost/benefit to the day-to-day management of our network. As such, as proposed in the motion, the review of available technology for public lighting is ongoing.

Councillor L. O'Toole spoke to her motion.

Mr. E. Burke, Director of Planning and Transportation responded.

*The motion was **AGREED**.*

Motions related to any other matters

M8/0926 An Post sorting offices

It was proposed by Councillor J. Spear, seconded by Councillor F. Timmons

That this Council agrees that sorting offices are vital community services and calls on An Post and the Minister for Culture, Communications and Sport, to immediately halt any plans to relocate any sorting offices currently situated in South Dublin County.

REPORT:

If the motion is passed, letters will be issued to the Chief Executive Officer of An Post and to the Minister for Culture, Communications and Sport; the responses, when received, will be circulated to the Members.

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors J. Spear, M. Johansson, K. Keane and L. O'Toole.

*The motion was **AGREED**.*

M9/0926 Data centre water demands

It was proposed by Councillor W. Carey, seconded by Councillor J. Spear

That this Council expresses its concern regarding the water demands of data centres and, in light of increasing pressure on water resources, agrees to write to the Minister for Climate, Energy and the Environment, the Minister for Housing, Local Government and

Heritage, and Uisce Éireann seeking a report on: the volumes of water used by data centres; the proportions evaporated and discharged as blowdown water; and the monitoring, treatment and environmental controls in place to ensure that any discharges do not adversely affect public health, water quality or biodiversity.

REPORT:

If the motion is passed, letters will be issued to the Minister for Climate, Energy and the Environment, the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage and the Chief Executive Officer of Uisce Éireann; the responses, when received, will be circulated to the Members.

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors W. Carey, J. Spear, D. McManus, R. McMahon, K. Keane, L. O'Toole and H. Farrell.

*The motion was **AGREED**.*

M10/0926 National Driving Licence Service

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

That this Council writes to the Minister for Transport requesting that the National Driver Licence Service (NDLS) introduce a cash payment option for its services.

REPORT:

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

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors P. Holohan and Y. Collins.

*The motion was **AGREED**.*

M11/0926 Social housing income eligibility thresholds

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

That this Council writes to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage urging him to complete and publish the long-awaited review of social housing income eligibility thresholds,

increase the thresholds without delay, and introduce an index-linked mechanism to ensure they remain up to date in future years.

REPORT:

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

A discussion followed with contributions from Councillors D. Loftus, N. Whelan, W. Carey and R. Mannion.

*The motion was **AGREED**.*

Meeting ended 18:46