



Comhairle Contae
Átha Cliath Theas
South Dublin County Council



February 2022

Chief Executive's Report

Urban Art in Clondalkin

About the Chief Executive's Report

South Dublin County Council's Chief Executive's Report is presented to elected members at Council every month and details important achievements across our various departments whilst highlighting key statistics and images from events that took place that month.

The report also highlights major news pieces and puts a focus on an area of the Council that doesn't always get the attention it deserves.

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Active Travel funding for South Dublin County

South Dublin County Council is pleased to announce that the National Transport Authority (NTA) has approved funding for over 30 schemes in 2022 to a total value of €18,158,485.

This funding will help facilitate the development of various infrastructure projects across the County, including new cycle tracks, projects such as junction improvements for cyclists and pedestrians, greenways in parks, public realm improvements, maintenance of existing facilities and accessibility improvements. Securing this funding is key to enabling the Council to deliver the Cycle South Dublin programme, which seeks to provide a com-

prehensive and connected cycle network across the county.

Significant progress has been made to date in advancing the “Now” schemes in the Cycle South Dublin programme, such as the Dodder Greenway and the N81 at Jobstown. The 2022 funding will enable more of those schemes to be delivered and provide for the preliminary design work to be initiated on some significant “Soon” schemes, such as the Tallaght to Clondalkin route and the Citywest to Rathfarnham route. An overall Year One progress report on Cycle South Dublin will be brought to full Council in the coming months.



Fixed Charge Penalties

The Minister for Transport has signed regulations doubling from €40 to €80 the fixed charge penalty for motorists caught parking on footpaths, cycle tracks and bus lanes. The new €80 penalties came into operation on 1 February 2022. The fine will increase from €80 to €120 after 28 days. If not paid after 28 days a legal administration charge of €37 will then be applied after 56 days, which brings the fine to €157.

These increased penalties will both promote active travel and encourage a more considerate use of road space.

School Street projects

In November 2020, the Council agreed a programme of school street improvements at eight school locations across the County to be progressed in two phases with four schools in each phase. The objectives of the work are to improve road safety, improve the local environment and promote better health. Since then, the Council has appointed a consultant team to support the delivery of these schemes at the following locations,

- Gaelscoil Chluain Dolcáin and Coláiste Chillian, Clondalkin;
- St. Mark's J.N.S. and S.N.S., Tallaght and,
- Scoil Lorcaín and St Brigid's, Palmerstown.

To date, there has been a range of surveys completed including engagement with teachers, parents and children. This engagement with local people is being used to inform the designs at each location. The next stage is to commence a non-statutory public consultation on the proposed interventions in the coming months.



School Street projects are being advanced

Draft Development Plan Update

Submissions on the South Dublin Draft Development Plan 2022-2028 have been assessed and the resultant report was issued to elected members on 7 December. The closing date for the submission of motions for special meetings was on 24 January and approximately 100 motions were received with Council staff currently preparing responses. Meetings will be held to debate these from 23 February.



Housing, Social and Community Development

Housing Online

From March 2022, our housing repairs service will move online for tenants to access our maintenance services at a time that suits them best – removing the need to contact us by phone. This means that our tenants can:

- Submit a maintenance request at any time of day or night without calling us,
- Let us know the dates and times they are available for a call-out,
- See what has been reported and when it will be resolved.

All Council tenants have received letters to register for their Housing Online account and a step-by-step guide is available at www.sdcc.ie. Anybody having difficulties registering for this service should email hol@sdblincoco.ie for assistance.

We will be still available by phone but only to deal with emergency queries and to help older or vulnerable persons with their maintenance queries.



Sports Partnership Programmes

South Dublin County Sports Partnership is here to support groups, schools and individuals to get active in 2022. It is great to see our groups move from online activities to in-person activities with running club events, boxing and rowing classes and many other programmes starting again in various locations like schools, community centres and parks. For more information, please see www.sdccsp.ie.

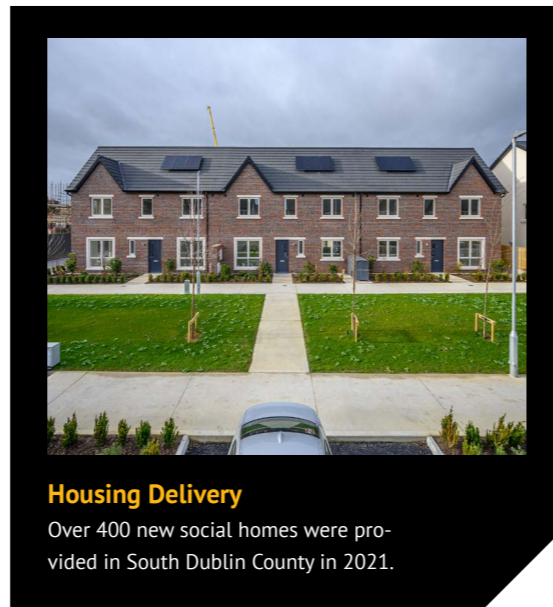
Housing Delivery in 2021

In a very challenging year for housing delivery, over 400 new social homes were provided in South Dublin County, through direct Council delivery, AHB projects, Part V homes and leasing of properties.

The original target from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage for delivery of 408 new build homes was severely impacted by COVID restrictions which included construction site shutdowns and significant impacts on site remobilisation and supply chain issues as well as increasing costs and staff shortages. The final outcome represented a positive outcome in such circumstances, contributing towards the more than 700 new housing allocations in 2021. This was in addition to

the 932 households who had their housing needs met through new tenancies with Housing Assistant Payment (HAP) and enhanced HAP support in 2021.

We now aim to enhance our delivery as we commence a new five-year housing delivery plan that is projected to deliver 6,500 social and affordable homes in the County between 2022 and 2026. Our current build pipeline, strong collaboration with AHBs and projected delivery of homes through Part V are anticipated to ensure that we meet the initial 400 new build social homes target in 2022 under the government's Housing for All strategy.



Housing Delivery

Over 400 new social homes were provided in South Dublin County in 2021.

Tenant Purchase Scheme

The recent Housing (Sale of Local Authority Houses) (Amendment) Regulations 2021 amend the Tenant (Incremental) Purchase Scheme 2016 with effect from 1 February 2022. The changes are as follows:

- The minimum income to be eligible under the scheme has been revised from €15,000 per annum to €12,500 per annum,
- The period tenants are required to be in receipt of social housing support to be eligible has changed from one to ten years. For joint tenancies, both tenants must be in receipt of social housing support for at least ten years.



From March, our maintenance services can be accessed 24/7 online

Economic, Enterprise and Tourism Development



Cybersafety Webinars

With technology playing an increasingly important role in children's lives from their education to their recreation and playtime, it has become vital to balance the opportunities and enjoyment that tech can bring, while also recognising the risks.

South Dublin Libraries recently hosted two webinars with Cyber Safe Kids to help parents to help their children navigate the online world in a safe, fun and responsible manner. The Healthy Tech Habits at Home event on 24 January focused on behaviour such as screentime, setting house rules and modelling good digital habits for children.

On 7 February, the To Game or Not to Game? webinar looked at the world of gaming. Aimed at parents and guardians of pre-teen and teen children, this comprehensive session took parents on a tour through the often baffling gaming landscape to equip them with the knowledge to make more informed decisions



Exploring & Thinking Bursary

South Dublin County Council, in association with the three other Dublin local authorities, has announced the recipients of awards totalling €17,230 under the Exploring and Thinking Bursary Award 2022. The awards support professional artists to develop their practice working with or producing work for young children aged 0 – 5 years. You can find a list of the recipients on www.sdcc.ie.

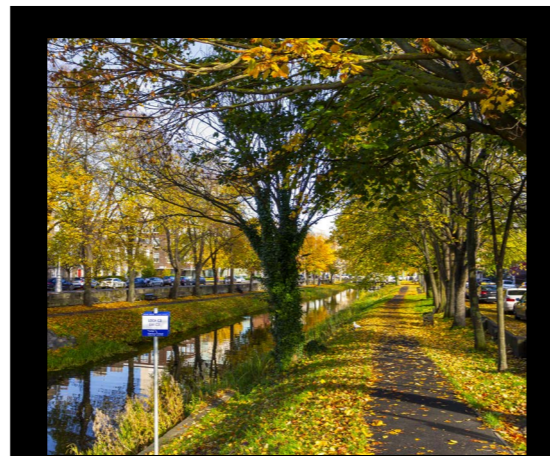
Grand Canal Greenway and 12th Lock Masterplan

The Grand Canal Greenway is a significant recreational and tourism asset for the region and South Dublin County Council. In seeking to maximise its potential as an important public amenity, sections of the route have been developed as the Grand Canal Greenway with further development planned along the full extents of the route.

In South Dublin County, the Grand Canal runs through the Clondalkin, Lucan and Newcastle areas, and has been developed as a Greenway from Dublin City out as far as the 12th Lock at the R120. Following an allocation of funding announced by the Minister for Transport, Eamon Ryan T.D, in 2021, the Grand

Canal Greenway will be extended from the 12th Lock to Hazelhatch Bridge as part of the overall Department of Transport's Greenway Programme.

This key four kilometer section will provide safe access to people working in the existing Grange Castle Business Park, the extended developing business parks in Grange Castle South and West, become an amenity for the residents of the planned adjacent Clonburris SDZ as well as those living in established residential areas of Adamstown and Lucan. Site investigations have commenced, and the main construction works will be substantially completed in late 2022, enabling people to walk and cycle from Inchicore to Hazel Hatch Bridge.



Grand Canal Greenway

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Urban Art in Clondalkin

North Clondalkin Library commissioned a piece of urban art last year in association with Contact Studio and courtesy of funding received from Creative Ireland. Artist Hannah Creevy engaged with local schools and community groups during the process. The art piece has been installed on the outside fence of library's junior garden and forms an eye-catching and striking display on approach to the library. The design incorporates elements from the local area, including Baldonnell, Collinstown Park, words of local spoken artist Natalya O'Flaherty, along with popular pursuits like horses and scooters.



The North Clondalkin Library urban art piece

Corporate Performance and Change Management



Strategic Policy Committees

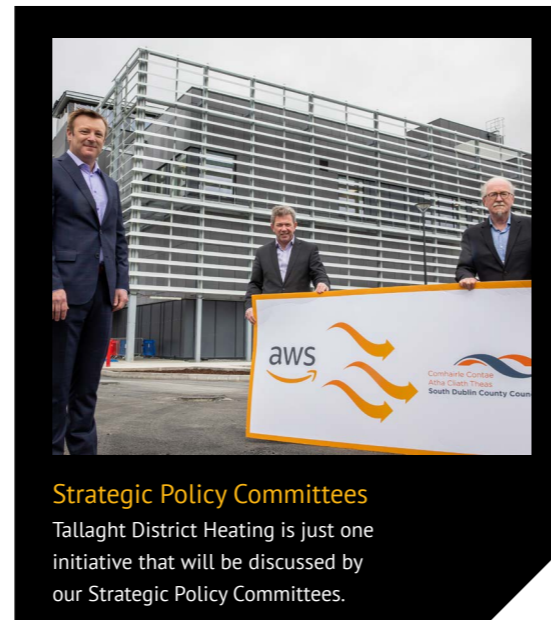
The programme of works for 2022 has been set for each Strategic Policy Committee. The purpose of Strategic Policy Committees (SPC) is to formulate, develop, monitor and review policies that relate to the functions of South Dublin County Council and to advise the Council accordingly.

They are made up of elected councillors and other representatives of the social partners and other sectoral interests. As such, SPCs draw on the knowledge and expertise of people working with social, economic, cultural and environmental bodies throughout South Dublin County.

The Council currently has six SPCs relating to,

- Arts, Culture, Gaeilge, Heritage and Libraries,
- Economic Development, Enterprise and Tourism,
- Environment, Public Realm and Climate Change,
- Housing,
- Social, Community and Equality,
- Land Use, Transportation and Planning.

Among the items the six SPCs in South Dublin County Council will discuss are affordable housing provision, the implementation of initiatives like the Tallaght District Heating project and more. Further details on membership and SPC meetings can be found on www.sdcc.ie.



Strategic Policy Committees
Tallaght District Heating is just one initiative that will be discussed by our Strategic Policy Committees.

€300k Have Your Say

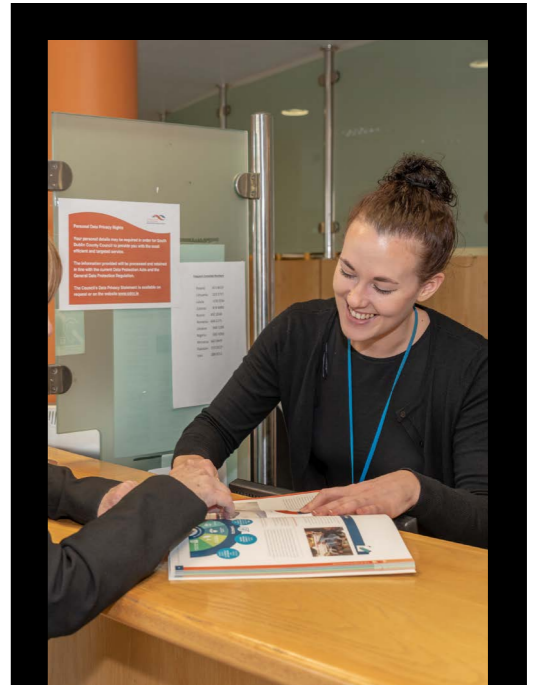
The selection of the next local electoral area for €300k Have Your Say is taking place at the February council meeting. The 2021 edition saw Tallaght Central get their chance to decide on what projects they wanted in their area with twelve initiatives chosen for funding. To date, over 10,000 people have cast their vote in €300k Have Your Say to fund a project, or projects, of their choice. 700 project ideas have been submitted to the Council for consideration with 80 being put forward to the public vote and 40 being funded. You can find more details at www.sdcc.ie/en/have-your-say.

€300k Have Your Say will get back underway soon

Seachtain na Gaeilge

Tá Comhairle Contae Átha Cliath Theas agus Seirbhísí Leabharlainne tar éis dul i gcomhpháirt le hÁras Chrónáin i gcomhair Seachtain na Gaeilge Átha Cliath Theas (SnaGÁCT) i mbliana. Táthar ag cur bailchríche leis an gclár SnaGÁCT faoi láthair, agus rithfidh sé idir 1 agus 17 Márta. Eiseofar tuilleadh sonraí faoin gclár gan mhoill.

South Dublin County Council and our Library Services have partnered with Áras Chrónáin for this year's Seachtain na Gaeilge Átha Cliath Theas (SnaGÁCT). The SnaGÁCT programme is currently being finalised and will run from 1 to 17 March. More details on the programme will be released shortly.



Careers at the Council

The Council has recently advertised several jobs, from clerical officers to graduate engineers and a project lead on Active City Dublin. We try to attract and retain talented and motivated people looking to make a positive difference in the lives of citizens in the County. If you are interested in joining us, keep an eye on the Council's dedicated e-recruitment system at <https://sdccjobs.ie/>.

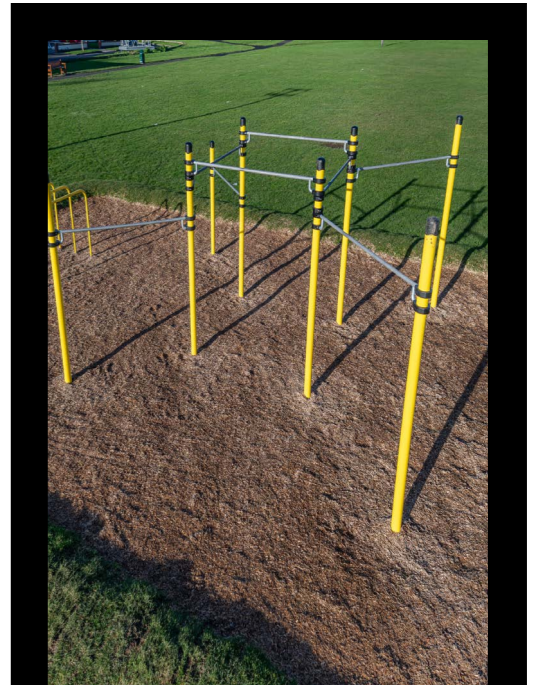


Environment, Water Climate Change

Pollinator Action Plan

2021 was a successful year in terms of carrying out works to advance the Pollinator Action Plan, and 2022 promises to be a busy year as well. Pollinator actions we progressed in 2021 included public awareness initiatives like publishing the SDCC Pollinator Plan booklet, producing a promotional video to promote same and providing pollinator information to schools, community groups and the general public.

We carried out perennial planting schemes at prominent locations across the County, bulbs planting on roadsides and the planting of ornamental wildflower meadows at prominent locations. We also contributed to the National Tidy Towns Pollinator Award prize fund, co-funded research on alternatives to herbicides for public spaces and investigated new grassland management techniques. We have ensured the inclusion of the All Ireland Pollinator Plan in new County Development Plan, Green Infrastructure Plan and other Council Strategies.



New Calisthenics Area Opens

We are pleased to announce that the purpose-built calisthenics and functional workout area in Knockmitten has been completed and is open to the public. Calisthenics is a form of physical training focused on teaching you to master your own bodyweight using minimal equipment. We have created instructional tutorial videos on how to use calisthenics equipment safely that are available on www.sdcc.ie.

What are Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS)?

Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) is a way of managing rainfall that mimics drainage processes found in nature and addresses the issues with traditional surface water drainage.

Traditional surface water drainage involved hard engineered “grey” solutions such as pipes and attenuation tanks to collect and quickly convey rainwater to the sewer network and ultimately the river network. This can contribute to flooding and water pollution issues.

In 2021 the Council procured the services of an engineering consultant to develop a SuDS Explanatory, Design and Evaluation Guide for the County. The guidance document

aims to improve consistency in applying SuDS for developments in South Dublin County and to promote a greater understanding and collaborative approach to SuDS design. It is envisaged this will guide external developers and internal stakeholders who are involved in developing Council-led projects within the County.

A SuDS homeowner guide will also be developed to guide homeowners on how to apply SuDS at a domestic level through the use of sustainable drainage solutions. Both documents will be published this month. A suite of SDCC SuDS standard details is also being developed to ensure a consistent approach is taken to SuDS design, construction, and maintenance.



Sustainable Drainage Systems

Guides are being developed for external and internal stakeholders to explain the process.

Natural Meadows

Works carried out on our meadows in previous years have started to blossom with spectacular displays of wildflowers in meadows across the County right throughout the summer period. Some 145 hectares of parkland are managed as natural meadows and are cut at the end of the flowering season while others are left to winter and are cut later in the Spring.

Ongoing botanical and insect surveys are part of the natural meadow management and will guide future management practices.



A range of pollinator initiatives were carried out in 2021

LEO South Dublin Supporting Business



Recently released figures show LEO South Dublin clients created over 242 jobs in 2021.

The Local Enterprise Office (LEO) South Dublin is now supporting over 260 small businesses and 1,345 jobs according to new figures. These include:

- 242 new jobs created in 2021
- 3% job increase from 2020
- Eighth year of year on year jobs growth
- Net employment gain of 37 in 2021

- 260 total small businesses employing 1345 people supported by LEO South Dublin

At a live virtual event on Monday 17 January, An Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment Leo Varadkar TD, announced the annual results of the Local Enterprise Offices (LEOs) for 2021 which showed that Local Enterprise Office South Dublin supported companies created 242

National Figures

The total national figures for the Local Enterprise Offices (LEO) across the country were also announced with the LEOs now supporting 35,729 jobs across 7,158 companies. In 2021 there were 7,440 new jobs created by LEO clients companies with a net jobs creation figure of 2,999. This was up 9% nationally on 2020. From those figures, 85% of those employed in LEO supported companies are outside the Dublin region.

The LEOs also provided substantial funded supports to thousands of other small businesses across the country with programmes such as the Trading Online Voucher, Lean for Micro and Green for Micro along with training and mentoring.

jobs in 2021. This figure was up 5% from the 235 jobs that were created by LEO South Dublin in 2020.

The net jobs created by Local Enterprise Office South Dublin supported clients in 2021 was 37 which takes into account companies that amalgamated, ceased trading and those that transferred on to Enterprise Ireland.

The new figures show that the LEO South Dublin financially supported 260 small businesses in their portfolio across the county these companies in turn employ 1,345 people.

Daniel McLoughlin, Chief Executive of South Dublin County Council, welcomed the news by saying,

“The figures in relation to job creation

and supports of small businesses is a testament to both the innovative and entrepreneurial capacity in South Dublin County and the collaboration that exists between the Local Enterprise Office and anyone who interacts with them. I would encourage anyone with a business idea to get in touch with our team in the Local Enterprise Office today to discuss their proposals and find out how we can help them.”



LEO South Dublin clients with Minister Damien English

Community Activities Fund



Applications are open for the South Dublin County Community Activities Fund.

The Community Activities Fund is currently open to local community and voluntary groups in disadvantaged urban and rural areas, and, not-for-profit organisations in the administrative area of South Dublin County Council. Funding will be targeted at disadvantaged areas or targeted at communities that have specific needs.

This €9m fund is being provided by

the government to support community and voluntary groups impacted by Covid-19. This once-off fund will be allocated under the Department's Community Enhancement Programme and is administered locally by the Local Community Development Committees (LCDCs).

Through this fund, South Dublin County will receive €338,797 which comprises:

Community Supports

The Community Activities Fund is just one funding source on offer by the Council and open to groups throughout the County. The Community Grants Programme is aimed at providing financial assistance to community and voluntary groups who are responding to locally identified needs within their communities. The Community Infrastructure Fund is a fund of €350,000 which offers community groups (including sports clubs) the opportunity to apply for funding, to assist with the costs of either constructing new facilities or for the modernisation or expansion of existing premises.

Further information and advice on community grants can be obtained by contacting our Community Services team by email at: communitygrants@sdblincoco.ie.

- €207,043 Current funding (Non-Pay) for use towards running/operating costs
- €131,754 Capital funding for use towards carrying out necessary repairs and improvements to facilities, energy efficiency type projects, purchase of equipment etc.

The Community Activities Fund will support groups, particularly in disadvantaged areas, with their non-pay running costs, for example, utility bills (electricity costs, refuse charges, heating charges) or other non-pay operating costs for example rental/lease costs, insurance bills.

Groups will also be able to use the funding to carry out necessary repairs and improvements to their facilities,

purchase equipment, for example, tables and chairs, tools and signage, laptops and printers, lawnmowers, canopies and training equipment etc.

The deadline for the submission of online applications is Friday 25 February 2022. More information and an online application form can be found on www.sdcc.ie.



Applications are open for the Community Activities Fund

Park Ranger e-Bikes Launched



Two new e-bikes were launched in late January for use by Council park rangers in Tymon Park and Corkagh Park.

The Mayor of South Dublin County, Cllr Peter Kavanagh, officially welcomed the introduction of two new e-bikes this week. The bikes are for use by park rangers in Tymon and Corkagh Park.

Through the implementation of our Climate Change Action Plan 2019-2024 South Dublin County Council is committed to reducing its climate change impact and we are working

towards a 51% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030.

In pursuit of this target and funded by the Council's Climate Innovation Fund, the e-bikes are helping to transition the transport requirements of our park rangers away from traditional methods such as greenhouse gas emitting diesel- or petrol-powered vans, while assisting them in efficiently covering the extensive acreage of

Climate Change Newsletter

The Council released the latest climate change newsletter in January. This edition focused on flood resilience and included information on flood alleviation schemes, the Dublin Urban Rivers project and more. The climate change aims to keep the citizens of the County informed on progress being made in delivering the actions of the Council's Climate Change Action Plan.

You can view the latest newsletter in the news section of www.sdcc.ie.

South Dublin County parks.

The e-bikes are being used both for journeys within parks and between parks, for example via South Dublin's greenways. As such, the e-bikes also contribute towards reducing the negative impact that diesel- or petrol-powered vehicles have on air quality.

Additionally, the e-bikes provide the rangers with greater access and visibility of their parks as they can travel where vans cannot, while minimising disruption to park users that the larger vehicles can cause. Our park rangers on their e-bikes are now more visible to citizens and more approachable. In this way, daily citizen interactions with climate action in South Dublin County are also increasing.

More information on South Dublin County Council's climate action plan can be found on www.sdcc.ie and through our social channels by searching the hashtag #SDCCClimateAction.



Launch of our e-Bikes



Delivering homes at several sites in 2022



Supporting the arts in South Dublin County

The 2022 Annual Service Delivery Plan (ASDP) is delivered to elected members at February's Council meeting.

The purpose of the Annual Service Delivery Plan is to identify the key services that South Dublin County Council intends to deliver during 2022.

This Service Delivery Plan details our commitments and plans for the year ahead and a graphic summary of the detailed plan is delivered to every household, business and school in the County through the Citizen's Newsletter each summer.

A Transformative Year

This year's Service Delivery Plan is a transformative strategy for both the County and Council as we update how we serve you and continue to develop an active, inclusive and innovative South Dublin County. A key element of the

ASDP 2022 is the delivery of a Customer and Digital Services Transformation Strategy to enhance our service for everyone who interacts with the Council. This, along with other initiatives, should ensure the Council delivers a high quality 24/7 customer service for the people of South Dublin County. We will strengthen local democracy through developing webcasting and hybrid Council meetings whilst raising citizen awareness of the importance of participation in politics.

Providing affordable homes will continue to be a focus of the Council in 2022 with the progression of works at Killinarden, Kilcarbery and other areas. The Council will support the wide variety of communities in our County through our Healthy County

A Focus on the Annual Service Delivery Plan



Digital transformation of our services



Climate Changes actions

Framework, Age Friendly Strategy, South Dublin libraries service, arts strategy and other areas. The ASDP also lists how we will meet the challenges of climate change by delivering 125 climate action initiatives while continuing to improve the appearance of the County and promote it as a destination for tourism and enterprise.

Among the targets we have set for the year ahead are planting 3,000 trees across the County, upgrading 1,700 public lights to LED and providing €400,000 in business supports. We will seek to grow the membership of our libraries to 33,000 people.

Reporting to You

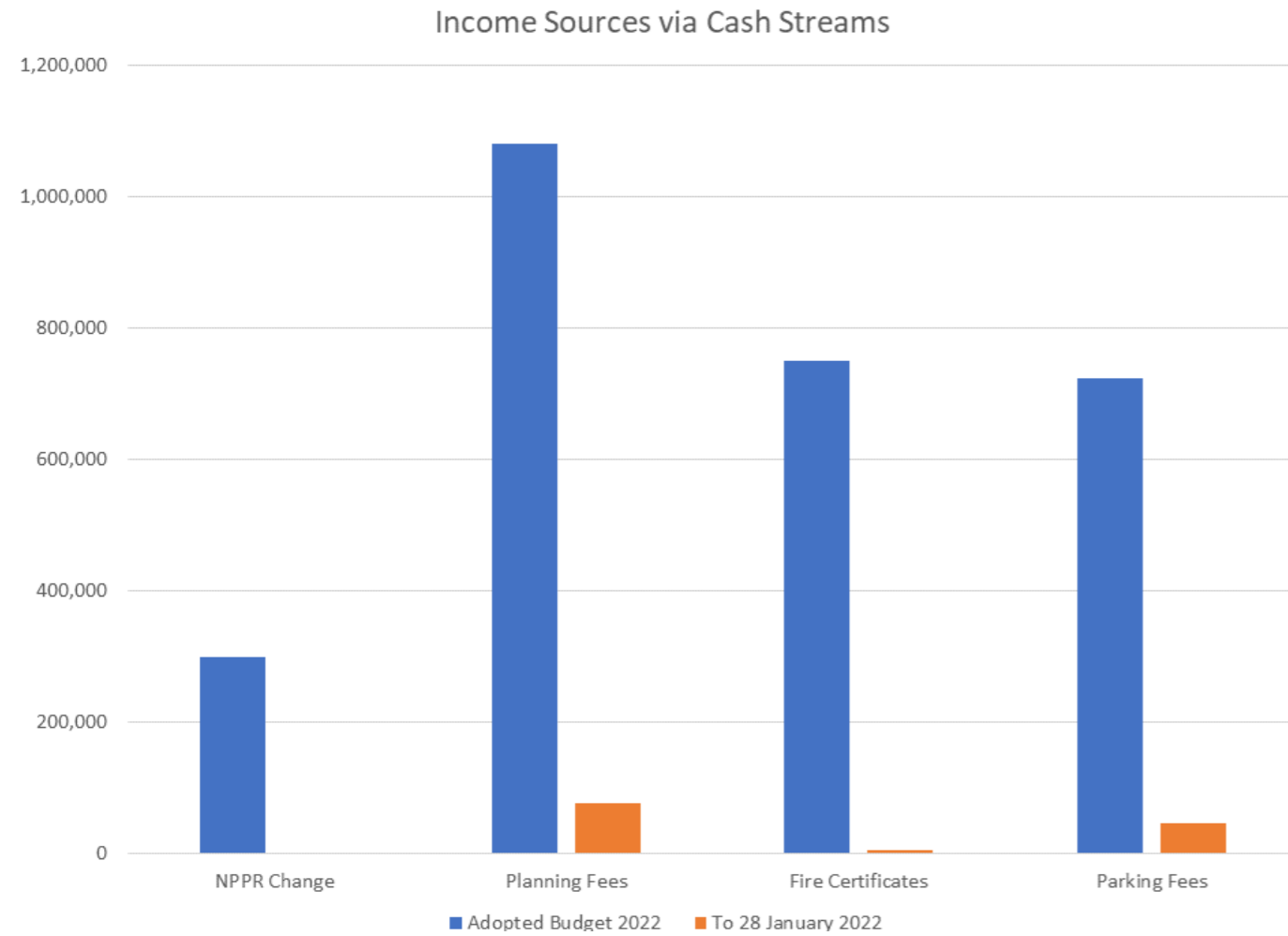
Each year, the Council adopts a Service Delivery Plan with specific targets based on the objectives in the five-year Corporate Plan.

At the end of each year we produce a report setting out the Corporate Plan achievements for the past year. You can see an update on this report in last month's Chief Executive's Report on www.sdcc.ie. Elected members review this progress before the Annual Report for that year is published. We publish this on our website and copies are also available on request from your local library.

The ASDP is structured per the Corporate Plan with details provided on the objectives and supporting strategies for that area as well as the specific capital works projects planned and the accompanying performance indicators.

Once the 2022 Annual Service Delivery Plan is adopted by elected members, it will be posted to the Council's website and social media channels to download.

Finance Report



You can view the full Finance Report under the Manager's Report headed item of the monthly Council meeting agenda.

Images of the Month



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