



South Dublin County Council  
Comhairle Contae Átha Cliath Theas

# Annual Report 2006





## South Dublin County Council

Corporate Management Team

**Mr Joe Horan**

County Manager

**Mr Tom Doherty**

Director of Planning & Deputy Manager

**Mr Pat Smith**

Director of Community, Parks and Libraries

**Ms Mary Pyne**

Director of Environmental Services

**Mr Brian Brennan**

County Architect

**Mr Frank Coffey**

Director of Transportation and  
County Engineer

**Ms Clodagh Henehan**

Head of Finance

**Mr Michael Keyes**

Head of Human Resources

**Mr Jim Walsh**

Director of Economic Development

**Mr Adrian O’Gorman**

Law Agent

**Mr Tommy Kavanagh**

Head of Information Technology

**Ms Philomena Poole**

Director of Housing &  
Social Development

**Mr Benny Hickey**

Head of Corporate Services





# Contents

<b>Message from the Mayor</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Message from the County Manager</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Elected Members &amp; Electoral Areas</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Area Committees</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Strategic Policy Committee</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Corporate Policy Group &amp; County Development Board</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Events 2006</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Council Membership of Committees and Statutory Bodies</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Conferences 2006</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Award Winners</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Community Services</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Parks</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Libraries</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>Economic Development</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Environmental Services</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>Housing</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>Planning</b>	<b>42</b>
<b>Roads Traffic and Transportation</b>	<b>45</b>
<b>Architectural Services</b>	<b>48</b>
<b>Corporate Services</b>	<b>49</b>
<b>Human Resources</b>	<b>52</b>
<b>Law</b>	<b>54</b>
<b>Information Technology</b>	<b>55</b>
<b>Finance</b>	<b>58</b>
<b>Finance Statistics</b>	<b>61</b>
<b>National Service Indicators</b>	<b>64</b>





## Message from the Mayor

### South Dublin - A place to be proud of

South Dublin is the most vibrant and diverse of places on this island. In terms of geography it is spread out from Tallaght to Clondalkin, on to Lucan and Palmerstown. Including the old historic villages of Saggart, Rathcoole, Newcastle and Brittas, Terenure and Rathfarnham, South Dublin County Council makes up the second largest local authority in the country.

Surrounded in part by the Dublin Mountains and the wonderful River Dodder, the South County Dublin area is a mix of both urban and rural living.

Our Council provides an extensive list of services for it's residents, and is fortunate to have a workforce that strives to make our County a better place for all of us.

The good work of the staff and management was recognised and honoured recently, when this Council was awarded the prestigious 'Local Authority of the Year Award'.

In addition our Council also won awards in three specialist categories.

Tallaght is the principal town within the county and is the third largest centre of population in the country. Tallaght is a great place to live, with a community spirit that is second to none and a heritage that goes back to the eighth century.

Throughout our county, this Council will continue to work diligently in providing homes for those who need them, be it social or affordable accommodation.

I will strive to work with those in the communities to make South Dublin litter-free and a place where all residents can be proud of.

The Annual Report for 2006 is an account of this Council and how it's work is funded. It is a transparent record made available to the public.

Slán go fóill.

**Mayor Éamonn Maloney**  
South Dublin County Council





## Message from the County Manager

In accordance with the objectives of our Corporate Plan 2004-2009 - "Connecting with the Communities", an ambitious programme of work was undertaken in 2006 by South Dublin County Council which builds on progress to date in improving outcomes for all who live, work and play in our county.

Significant achievements throughout the year include:

- Further progress on the rollout of the sustainable new community in **Adamstown** in tandem with social, infrastructural and community facilities and the progressing of plans for a further, similar Strategic Development Zone on the same model in the Balgaddy /Clonburris area.
- Very good progress was made on our **Development Plan 2004-2010** programme of Local Area Plans and Masterplans most significantly with the adoption of our new Tallaght Town Centre Masterplan in 2006
- New measures introduced to promote **pro-social behaviour initiatives** and develop **sustainable neighbourhood models** in Council housing estates
- Significant progress made on the **Traveller Housing Programme** and in developing inter-agency supports to the traveling community in association with our County Development Board partners
- A major new **Leisure Centre** was opened in Tallaght, work was commenced on a similar facility in Clondalkin and the new Skatepark in Lucan in 2006 together with additional and improved children's playground facilities throughout the county
- The Council's Business Park at **Grange Castle** continues to be developed with Wyeth Medica commencing operations, LAWS developing a major new facility and permission being secured for a significant generic integrated circuit manufacturing facility to IDA Ireland
- The **Connect** project continues to be expanded to place South Dublin County online by enabling all its citizens to use technology in innovative ways to achieve their goals and to change/shape internet content to be more relevant to local interests and needs. **The Connect School** element, in partnership with St Aidan's Community School, Brookfield, develops student-centred technology through an innovative learning culture in order to improve school attendance, participation in class and educational outcomes for the students
- The Council continues through its "**Property Path**" initiative to make significant progress in developing home ownership through promotion of affordable housing in association with the Affordable Homes Partnership
- Further development of our **Intermodal Traveller Information System** based on automatic number plate recognition technology to assess traffic movements on national and orbital routes, feed this information into transport planning and make available real-time travel and congestion information across the web to commuters and other transport agencies
- The development of proposals to provide **Green Pedestrian and Cycle routes** throughout the county and making connections into neighbouring authorities
- Proposals advanced for development of **Park and Ride sites** on the N4 & N7 to reduce commuter traffic from roads traversing the county
- Studies commenced on introduction of a **School Transport System** to alleviate traffic congestion from this source

This significant progress has been achieved through ongoing organisational change initiatives in areas of staff development, business process improvements and better and more integrated use of resources to ensure the provision of quality information, improved customer service and delivery on work programmes. A significant element of this approach is achieved through harnessing of Information Technology to enable our customers interact easily and meaningfully with the Council.

I would like to take this opportunity to commend the leadership of Mayor Eamon Maloney, the Elected Members, Strategic Policy Committees, the Corporate Management Team and all the staff of the Council for their continued commitment to the change processes currently being implemented and to congratulate the organisation as a whole for leading the way in providing excellent levels of public service. This was acknowledged by the award to the Council of the prestigious **Local Authority of the Year 2006** award and other category awards by Chambers Ireland.

**Joe Horan,**  
County Manager





## Elected Members & Electoral Areas



Thérèse Ridge

Gerard Cullen

Trevor Gilligan

Shane O'Connor

Robert Dowds

Derek Keating

Guss O'Connell

Billy Gogarty

Eamon Tuffy

### Clondalkin

#### Robert Dowds

**Phone:** 01 459 4583

**Email:** rdowds@sdblincoco.ie

**Address:** 43 Castle Park, Clondalkin, Dublin 22

#### Trevor Gilligan

**Phone:** 01 414 9341

**Mobile:** 085 714 5005

**Email:** tgilligan@sdblincoco.ie

**Address:** 112 Cappaghmore Estate, Clondalkin, Co. Dublin. c/o Civic Centre, Clondalkin Dublin 22 (beside Old Mill Shopping Centre)

#### Shane O'Connor

**Phone:** 01 457 5668

**Mobile:** 087 240 7922

**Email:** soconnor@sdblincoco.ie

**Address:** 170 Cherrywood Park, Clondalkin, Dublin 22

#### Thérèse Ridge

**Phone:** 01 457 3438

**Email:** tridge@sdblincoco.ie

**Address:** 4 St Patrick's Avenue, Clondalkin, Dublin 22

#### Gerard Cullen

**Mobile:** 087 133 9221

**Address:** 5 Glebe House, Newcastle, Co. Dublin

### Lucan

#### Eamon Tuffy

**Mobile:** 086 386 3173

**Email:** etuffy@sdblincoco.ie

**Address:** 22 Liffey Wood, Liffey Valley Park, Lucan, Co. Dublin

#### Derek Keating

**Phone:** 01 628 1053

**Mobile:** 087 285 7435

**Email:** dkeating@sdblincoco.ie

**Address:** 66 Beech Park, Lucan, Co. Dublin

#### Billy Gogarty

**Phone:** 01 621 8660

**Mobile:** 087 617 2290

**Address:** 34 Cherbury Park Road, Lucan, Co. Dublin.

#### Guss O'Connell

**Phone:** 01 626 8554

**Mobile:** 087 683 8254

**Address:** 47 Palmerstown Green, Palmerstown, Dublin 20





Jim Daly      Cathal King      Caitriona Jones      John Hannon      Marie Corr      Karen Warren      Joe Neville      Mick Murphy      Éamonn Maloney      Mark Daly

**Tallaght Central**

**Mick Murphy**

**Phone:** 01 493 4696  
**Email:** mmurphy@sdblincoco.ie  
**Address:** 78 Whitechurch Way, Dublin 16

**Mark Daly**

**Phone:** 01 414 9063  
**Mobile:** 087 997 4541  
**Email:** mdaly@sdblincoco.ie  
**Address:** 31 Cill Cais, Old Bawn, Tallaght, Dublin 24

**Éamonn Maloney**

**Phone:** 01 452 5969 / 01 452 5298  
**Email:** emaloney@sdblincoco.ie  
**Address:** 84 St. Maelruans Park, Tallaght, Dublin 24

**Joe Neville**

**Phone:** 01 414 9050  
**Mobile:** 087 850 6650  
**Email:** jneville@sdblincoco.ie  
**Address:** c/o South Dublin County Council, County Hall, Tallaght

**Karen Warren**

**Phone:** 01 244 1709  
**Mobile:** 087 767 9304  
**Email:** kwarren@sdblincoco.ie  
**Address:** 3 Bawnville Close, Tallaght, Dublin 24

**Tallaght South**

**Marie Corr**

**Mobile:** 085 735 9200  
**Email:** mcorr@sdblincoco.ie  
**Address:** 35 Sundale Park, Mountain View, Jobstown, Dublin 24

**Jim Daly**

**Phone:** 01 458 9782  
**Mobile:** 087 2542454  
**Email:** jdaly@sdblincoco.ie  
**Address:** 59 Coolamber Drive, Rathcoole, Co. Dublin

**John Hannon**

**Phone:** 01 414 9314 / 01 494 2045  
**Mobile:** 086 257 7213  
**Email:** jhannon@sdblincoco.ie  
**Address:** 11 knocklyon Heights, Firhouse Road, Dublin 16

**Caitriona Jones**

**Mobile:** 087 203 4427  
**Email:** cjones@sdblincoco.ie  
**Address:** 26 Allenton Drive, Ballycragh, Dublin 24

**Cáthal King**

**Phone:** 01 414 9063  
**Email:** cking@sdblincoco.ie  
**Address:** C/o South Dublin County Council, County Hall, Tallaght





Alex White      Maire Ardagh      Stanley Laing      Cáit Keane      John Lahart      Tony Mc Dermott      Eamonn Walsh

### Terenure/Rathfarnham

#### Maire Ardagh

**Phone:** 01 456 8736 / 01 490 4182  
**Email:** mardagh@sdblincoco.ie  
**Address:** 168 Walkinstown Road, Dublin 12

#### Stanley Laing

**Phone:** 01 490 5571  
**Email:** slaing@sdblincoco.ie  
**Address:** 86 Templeville Road, Terenure, Dublin 6W

#### Cáit Keane

**Phone:** 01 450 9878  
**Email:** ckeane@sdblincoco.ie  
**Address:** 26, Rushbrook Court, Templeogue, Dublin 16

#### Eamonn Walsh

**Phone:** 01 414 9309 / 01 450 4772  
**Email:** Ewalsh@sdblincoco.ie  
**Address:** 133 Limekiln Green, Walkinstown, Dublin 12

#### John Lahart

**Phone:** 01 493 9608  
**Email:** john\_lahart@entemp.ie  
jlahart@sdblincoco.ie  
**Address:** 6 Orlagh Grange, Scholarstown, Rathfarnham, Dublin 16

#### Tony Mc Dermott

**Mobile:** 086 8327450  
**Email:** tmcdermott@sdblincoco.ie  
**Address:** 31 Westfield Road, Dublin 6W

#### Alex White

**Phone:** 01 490 3889  
**Mobile:** 087 220 8533  
**Email:** awhite@sdblincoco.ie  
**Address:** 30 Fortfield Road, Terenure, Dublin 6W





## Area Committees



### Lucan/Clondalkin

#### Chairperson

Cllr. Eamon Tuffy (LAB)

Cllr. Robert Dowds (LAB)

Cllr. Trevor Gilligan (FF)

Cllr. Shane O Connor (SF)

Cllr. Therese Ridge (FG)

Cllr. Billy Gogarty (GR)

Cllr. Derek Keating (IND)

Cllr. Gerard Cullen (PD)

Cllr. Guss O Connell (IND)

### Tallaght

#### Chairperson

Cllr. Eamonn Maloney (LAB)

Cllr. Mark Daly (SF)

Cllr. Mick Murphy (SP)

Cllr. Joe Neville (FF)

Cllr. Karen Warren (FG)

Cllr. Maire Corr (LP)

Cllr. Jim Daly (FF)

Cllr. John Hannon (FF)

Cllr. Caitriona Jones (LP)

Cllr. Cáthál King (SF)

### Terenure/Rathfarnham

#### Chairperson

Cllr. Alex White (LAB)

Cllr. Cáit Keane (PD)

Cllr. Maire Ardagh (FF)

Cllr. John Lahart (FF)

Cllr. Stanley Laing (FG)

Cllr. Tony McDermott (GP)

Cllr. Eamon Walsh (LAB)





## Strategic Policy Committee

### Economic Development & Planning

**Chair:** Eamon Tuffy

Mark Daly, Jim Daly, Robert Dowds, Trevor Gilligan, Billy Gogarty, Cáit Keane, Eamonn Maloney, Mick Murphy, Joe Neville, Shane O Connor and Eamonn Walsh

#### Community Platform

Mr. John Kearns  
Bolbrook Enterprise Centre,  
Avonmore Road, Tallaght, Dublin 24.

**Phone:** 01 414 5700

**Fax:** 01 414 5799

**Email:** jkearns@partas.ie

#### Community Forum

Mr. Justin Byrne,  
17 Finns Park, Finnstown Cloisters, Lucan, Co. Dublin.

#### Trade Union

Mr Jim Fay,  
Irish Congress of Trade Unions,  
31-32 Parnell Square, Dublin 1.

#### Business/Commercial

Mr. Noel O'Connor,  
Irish Home Builders Association  
Construction House, Canal Road, Dublin 6

Ms. Deirdre Mooney,  
IT-MIS Manager, Gallaher (Dublin) Ltd.  
Airton Road, Tallaght, Dublin 24

**Phone:** 01 404 0239

**Fax:** 01 404 0266

**Mobile:** 086 207 9408

**Email:** deirdre.mooney@hallaherltd.com

#### Agriculture

### Housing & Social

**Chair:** Marie Corr.

Máire Ardagh, Jim Daly, Robert Dowds, Trevor Gilligan, John Hannon, Cathal King, Eamonn Maloney, Tony McDermott, Therese Ridge

#### Community Platform

Mr. Barney Joyce,  
Clondalkin Traveller Development Group,  
Clondalkin Enterprise Centre, Neilstown Road,  
Clondalkin, Dublin 22

#### Community Forum

Mr. Roderick Smyth,  
94 Drumcairn Avenue, Fettercairn, Tallaght,  
Dublin 24.

**Email:** rodericksmyth@ireland.com

**Phone:** 01 462 5720

#### Trade Union

Ms Betty Tyrell - Collard  
Department of Enterprise Trade & Employment,  
Kildare Street, Dublin 2.

#### Business/Commercial

### Transportation

**Chair:** Stanley Laing.

Gerard Cullen, Billy Gogarty, Cáit Keane, Derek Keating, Mick Murphy, Shane O'Connor, Therese Ridge, Eamon Tuffy and Alex White

#### Community Forum

Ms. Dympna Quinn

#### Community Platform

Mr. David Lynch,  
Clondalkin Partnership,  
Unit D Nangor Road Business Park, Clondalkin,  
Dublin 22.

#### Trade Union

Tom Carew, P.S.E.U.  
23 Merton Drive, Ranelagh, Dublin 6





**Business/Commercial**

Mr. David McConn  
Managing Director,  
Dualway Coaches, Rathcoole, Co. Dublin

Mr. Jim Farren  
Transport Manager,  
Roadstone Dublin Ltd., Fortunestown, Tallaght,  
Dublin 24.

**Environment**

**Chair:** Tony McDermott.

Maire Corr, Cáthal King, John Lahart, Stanley  
Laing, Éamonn Maloney, Guss O Connell, Eamonn  
Walsh and Karen Warren

**Community Forum**

Ms. Connie Kiernan  
187 Wheatfield Road, Palmerstown, Dublin 20

Prof. Valentine Rice,  
Cache Creek, Leixlip, Co. Kildare

**Community Platform**

Mr. Owen Binchy,  
C/o Brookfield Enterprise Centre, Brookfield,  
Tallaght, Dublin 24

**Business/Commercial**

Mr. Brian Buckley,  
Greyhound Waste Management  
2 Greenlea Park, Terenure, Dublin 6W.

**Arts, Culture , An Ghaeilge, Education  
& Libraries**

**Chair:** John Hannon.

Máire Ardagh, Gerard Cullen, Caitriona Jones,  
John Lahart, Tony McDermott, Joe Neville, Guss O  
Connell and Shane O Connor

**Community Forum**

Ms. Breda Bollard

**Community Platform**

Ms. Ann Fitzpatrick,

Jobstown CDP  
Ms. Jennifer Lloyd-Hughes,  
Tallaght Travellers CDP

**Trade Union**

Mr Jim Fay  
F.U.G.E.  
20 Glenview Drive, Tallaght, Dublin 24  
**Email:** jim.fay@ntlworld.com  
**Mobile:** 086 892 0641

**Sport, Recreation, Community & Parks**

**Chair:** Mark Daly.

Gerard Cullen, Jim Daly, Robert Dowds, Billy  
Gogarty, Caitriona Jones, Derek Keating, Joe  
Neville, Karen Warren and Alex White

**Community Platform**

Mr Cecil Johnston  
66 Donomore Crescent, Killinarden, Tallaght,  
Dublin 24  
**Email:** cjohnston@clondalkinpartnership.ie  
**Mobile:** 087 418 5266

**Community Forum**

Mr Ambrose Shields  
296 Cushlawn Pk, Tallaght, Dublin 24  
**Email:** ambrose.shields@tallaghtles.com  
**Mobile:** 087 223 9173

Mr Sean Reid,  
Rathcoole Community School, Community  
Centre, Main Street, Rathcoole, Co. Dublin

**Trade Union**

Mr. John Curtis,  
IMPACT,  
10 St. Mary's Road, Crumlin, Dublin 12.  
Or 25 Clogher Road, Dublin 12.

**Business/Commercial**

Mr. James Coghlan,  
International Sports Activity,  
Astro Park, Coolock Lane, Dublin 17.  
**Email:** james.coghlan@astropark.ie  
**Mobile:** 086 261 0493





## Corporate Policy Group & County Development Board

### Corporate Policy Group

#### Corporate Policy Group Members

Joe Horan, County Manager  
Cllr Éamonn Maloney (Mayor)  
Cllr Eamon Tuffy (Chair Economic Development and Planning)  
Cllr Marie Corr (Chair Housing and Social)  
Cllr Stanley Laing (Chair Transport )  
Cllr Tony McDermott (Chair Environment)  
Cllr John Hannon (Chair Arts, Culture, Gaeilge )

### County Development Board

#### Local Development Members

Anna Lee, Tallaght Partnership  
Loman O'Byrne, South Dublin County Enterprise Board  
Alan Breathnach, South Dublin County Enterprise Board  
Aileen O'Donoghue, Clondalkin Partnership  
Michael McBennett, Rural Dublin Leader Company  
Margaret Dalton, South Dublin County Childcare Committee - Jan 2006 to Nov 2006  
Fionnuala Mc Carthy, Lucan 2000

#### Local Government Members

Mayor Éamon Maloney - June 2006  
Mayor Therese Ridge - June 2005 to June 2006  
Cllr Eamon Tuffy, Chairperson - County Development Board  
Cllr John Hannon  
Cllr Marie Corr  
Cllr Mark Daly  
Cllr Stanley Laing  
Cllr Tony McDermott  
Joe Horan, County Manger

### Social Partners

Sheila O'Brien, South Dublin Community Forum  
John Kearns, South Dublin Community Platform  
Tom Carew, Irish Congress of Trade Unions  
Peter Byrne, South Dublin Chamber of Commerce

### State Agency Members

Assunta Delany, FAS  
Noel McCabe, Enterprise Ireland  
Kevin Ward, Health Services Executive (Jan 2006 to Nov 2006)  
Tom Mahon, Health Services Executive (Dec 2006)  
Fiona Hartley, County Dublin VEC (Jan 2006 - April 2006)  
Marie Griffin Donnellan, County Dublin VEC (May 2006)  
Pat Brehony, Department of Justice, Equality & Law Reform (Jan 2006 to October 2006)  
John Manley, Department of Justice, Equality & Law Reform ( November 2006)  
Pat Ryan, Department of Social & Family Affairs  
Lorcan O'Toole, Teagasc  
John Moloney, Department of Education & Science  
Brendan O'Sullivan, IDA  
Jane Fitzpatrick, Dublin Tourism

**Director:** Pat Smith

**T/Administrative Officers:** Elaine Leech/  
Ann Byrne

**Secretary:** Carol Mc Donnell





## Events 2006

### January

- Sod turning of Clondalkin Sports and Leisure Centre
- Sod turning M50 Upgrade

### February

- O2 Ability Awards
- 2006 Irish eGovernment Awards
- Launch of 'Borrowbooks.ie'
- Launch of Joe Williams' local history book on Round Tower

### March

- Seachtain Na Gaeilge
- Official Opening of the Holy Family Community School Memorial Garden, Rathcoole
- National Tree Week
- Youth Enterprise Awards
- Opening of TIA Cultural Diversity Day celebrating International Day Against Racism
- Conference to open the Ethiopian Friendship
- Elvis Tribute Concert Fundraiser
- Special Olympics Competition Prize-giving Awards

### April

- Ecoweek
- Mayor of Brent visits SDCC

### May

- Young Environmentalists Awards
- Launch of the second implementation plan of the County Strategy
- Shades for a Day National Council for the Blind
- Launch of North Clondalkin Mental Health Awareness Week
- Tallaght Local Drugs Task Force Prize-giving
- Launch of Slí na Sláinte

### June

- Visit by An Cosan Development Education Group
- Visit by Ethiopian Ambassador
- Delegation from SDCC visits Ethiopia
- Community Awards
- Junior Achievement Awards
- Spóirt Teic Awards
- Family Days
- Mayor launches campaign "Show Racism the Red Card"
- Annual Meeting

### July

- Family Days at Corkagh Park/Tymon Park
- Mayor opens "Sustainability through Innovation: Passive Solar Design"
- Fused Festival
- German delegation visits SDCC





## August

- Mayor opens new Bank of Scotland premises in Tallaght
- Artists Bursaries
- N7 Naas Road Widening Opening Ceremony
- Book Launch - Slí Mór

## September

- Official opening of South Dublin Chamber Training Academy
- Tallaght Person of the Year Awards
- Rehab People of the Year Awards
- Ceili Mór in aid of Ethiopian Partnership Project

## October

- Customer Service Week
- Childrens' Book Festival
- Halloween
- Launch of Walking Bus Project
- Pride of Place Awards
- Turning of sod on new Housing Development, Stewarts Hospital
- Opening of Youth Café, Bawnogue Community Centre

## November

- Opening of St. Aengus Community Centre
- Readers Day

- Anti-Racist Workplace Week
- Comhairle na bPáistí
- Excellence in Local Government Awards
- Opening of new Sports and Leisure Centre in Tallaght
- Mayor attends reception in honour of the Dublin Camogie Team
- Young Voices Seminar
- Launch of Time to Connect
- Social Inclusion Week
- Visit by Delegation from Finland
- Beautiful South Dublin Awards

## December

- Launch of Glenville Art Exhibition
- Launch of Video 'Our Grand Canal'
- Wood-turners Exhibition
- Lighting of Christmas tree
- Social Inclusion Photographic competition prize-giving



FUSED 2006





## Council Membership of Committees and Statutory Bodies

### **Association of County and City Councils (formerly known as General Council of County Councils)**

Cllr. Jim Daly  
Cllr. Eamonn Walsh  
Cllr. Therese Ridge

### **Dublin Regional Authority**

Cllr. Stanley Laing  
Cllr. Tony McDermott  
Cllr. Cáit Keane  
Cllr. Mark Daly  
Cllr. Maire Ardagh

### **Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurances Ltd.**

Cllr. Jim Daly

### **Dublin Regional EU Operational Committee**

Cllr. Stanley Laing

### **South Dublin County Enterprise Board**

Cllr. Gus O'Connell  
Cllr. Eamon Tuffy  
Cllr. Tony McDermott  
Cllr. John Hannon

### **LAMA (Local Authority Members Association)**

Cllr. Cáit Keane

### **Dublin City and County Regional Tourism Organisation Ltd**

Cllr. Maire Ardagh

### **Tallaght Community Arts Centre**

Cllr. Marie Corr  
Cllr. Mark Daly  
Cllr. Joe Neville  
Cllr. Karen Warren

### **Clondalkin Partnership**

Cllr. Shane O'Connor  
Cllr. Robert Dowds  
Cllr. Trevor Gilligan

### **Proposed Clondalkin Voluntary Housing Association**

Cllr. Robert Dowds

### **Lucan 2000 Community Group**

Cllr. Guss O'Connell

### **Tallaght Partnership**

Cllr. Cáthal King  
Cllr. Joe Neville  
Cllr. Caitriona Jones

### **Southside Partnership**

Cllr. Cáit Keane

### **Dublin Employment Pact**

Cllr. Eamon Tuffy

### **Strategic Planning Guidelines Local-Regional Authorities Members Committee**

Cllr. Stanley Laing  
Cllr. Marie Corr  
Cllr. Tony McDermott

### **Board of Rural Dublin Leader**

Cllr. Jim Daly

### **Dublin Transportation Advisory Committee**

Cllr. John Lahart  
Cllr. Alex White

### **Civic Theatre**

Cllr. Eamonn Walsh  
Cllr. John Hannon

### **KWCD Partnership**

Cllr. Tony McDermott

### **Tourism Task Force**

Cllr. Caitriona Jones  
Cllr. Mark Daly  
Cllr. Maire Ardagh  
Cllr. Therese Ridge





**Liffey Valley Management Advisory Committee**

Cllr. Robert Dowds  
Cllr. Trevor Gilligan  
Cllr. Shane O'Connor  
Cllr. Therese Ridge  
Cllr. Gerard Cullen  
Cllr. Derek Keating  
Cllr. Billy Gogarty  
Cllr. Guss O'Connell  
Cllr. Eamon Tuffy

**Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee**

Cllr. Cáthal King  
Cllr. Guss O'Connell  
Cllr. John Lahart  
Cllr. Stanley Laing (Chair)  
Cllr. Shane O'Connor  
Cllr. Robert Dowds

**Tallaght Integrated Area Plan Implementation & Monitoring Committee**

Cllr. Eamonn Maloney

**Clondalkin Integrated Area Plan Implementation & Monitoring Committee**

Cllr. Robert Dowds

**Dublin 12 Drugs Task Force**

Cllr. Eamonn Walsh

**Regional Drugs Task Force**

Cllr. Marie Corr

**Dublin County Vocational Education Committee**

Cllr. Caitriona Jones  
Cllr. Therese Ridge  
Cllr. John Lahart  
Cllr. Tony McDermott  
Cllr. Eamon Tuffy

**Southern and Eastern Regional Assembly**

Cllr. Maire Ardagh  
Cllr. Cait Keane  
Cllr. Stanley Laing

**Dublin Bus Forum**

Cllr. Cathal King  
Cllr. Tony McDermott  
Cllr. Marie Corr  
Cllr. John Hannon

**Dublin Mid-Leinster Regional Health Forum**

Cllr. Alex White,  
Cllr. Therese Ridge  
Cllr. Billy Gogarty  
Cllr. Robert Dowds  
Cllr. Derek Keating  
Cllr. Joe Neville  
Cllr. Jim Daly

**County Development Board**

Cllr. Eamon Tuffy (current chair)  
Cllr. Maire Corr  
Cllr. S. Laing  
Cllr. T. McDermott  
Cllr. J. Hannon  
Cllr. M. Daly  
Cllr. E. Maloney, Mayor (June 06 to date)  
(Cllr. T. Ridge (June 05 to June 06),







## Conferences 2006

### Home Conferences

**Conference:** Merriman Winter School  
**Venue:** Hotel Westport, Westport, Co. Mayo  
**Theme:** The life of Brian Merriman

**Conference:** Local Government Planning Seminar  
**Venue:** Clonea Hotel, Dungarvan, Co. Waterford  
**Theme:** The Councillor and the Planning Process

**Conference:** Media Skills for Councillors  
**Venue:** Clarinbridge Hotel, Galway  
**Theme:** Mastering the Art of Communication

**Conference:** AMAI Conference  
**Venue:** Clanree Hotel, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal  
**Theme:** Spring Seminar

**Conference:** Wicklow County Tourism  
**Venue:** Marriott Hotel, Druids Glen, Co. Wicklow  
**Theme:** Celtic Tourism Conference

**Conference:** Mid West Regional Authority  
**Venue:** Temple Gate Hotel Ennis  
**Theme:** The Region and the National Development Plan 2007-2013

**Conference:** Colmcille Winter School  
**Venue:** Colmcille Heritage Centre, Gartan, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal  
**Theme:** Are Special interest Groups undermining Government in Ireland?

**Conference:** Local Government Seminar  
**Venue:** Raheen House, Raheen Road, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary  
**Theme:** The Councillor and Civic Leadership

**Conference:** Association of City and County Councils  
**Venue:** Fairways Hotel, Dundalk  
**Theme:** Various Issues

**Conference:** Carlow Tourism Conference  
**Venue:** Dolmen Hotel, Kilkenny Road, Carlow  
**Theme:** The Future of Our Past

**Conference:** Natura 2000  
**Venue:** Ostan Manor Hotel, Tralee, Co. Kerry  
**Theme:** Sustainable Development in Designated Sites

**Conference:** The Law of Defamation as it Affects Councillors  
**Venue:** Earl of Desmond Hotel, Killarney Road, Tralee, Co. Kerry  
**Theme:** The Law of Defamation as it Affects Councillors

**Conference:** LAMA Conference  
**Venue:** Newpark Hotel, Kilkenny  
**Theme:** Delivering the Future Now

**Conference:** Sustainable Energy  
**Venue:** 15-19 Essex Street West, Dublin 2  
**Theme:** Sustainable Energy and Living

**Conference:** Waste Management Conference  
**Venue:** Downings Bay Hotel and Leisure Centre Downings, Co. Donegal  
**Theme:** Dealing with Waste

**Conference:** Housing Services and Local Government  
**Venue:** Shannon Key West, Rooskey, Co. Leitrim  
**Theme:** Housing Issues

**Conference:** Confederation of European Councillors  
**Venue:** Mount Errigal Hotel, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal  
**Theme:** Potential for Local and Regional Tourism North and South

**Conference:** 22nd Environmental Conference  
**Venue:** Carrigaline Court Hotel, Carrigaline, Co. Cork.  
**Theme:** The Cost of Waste Disposal





**Conference:** Ennis General Hospital Committee

**Venue:** Aburn Lodge Hotel, Ennis,  
Co. Clare

**Theme:** Who Owns Healthcare

**Conference:** Kerry Mental Health Association

**Venue:** Gleneagle Hotel, Killarney,  
Co. Kerry

**Theme:** Exercising your Mental Health

**Conference:** Architecture in the Public Service

**Venue:** Knockranny House Hotel, Westport  
Co. Mayo

**Theme:** Architecture in the Public Service

**Conference:** Confederation of European  
Councillors

**Venue:** Ferrycarrig Hotel, Wexford

**Theme:** Local Government and the  
Planning System North and South

**Conference:** Synge Summer School

**Venue:** Avondale, Rathdrum, Co. Wicklow

**Theme:** Irish Arts

**Conference:** Local Government Planning Service

**Venue:** Baltimore Harbour Hotel,  
West Cork

**Theme:** An instrument for Rural Planning

**Conference:** John Hewitt Summer School

**Venue:** Market Place Theatre, Armagh

**Theme:** Cross Border Cultural Event

**Conference:** William Charlton Summer School

**Venue:** Corick House, Clogher

**Theme:** Charlton Clogher, St Macartan

**Conference:** Parnell Summer School

**Venue:** Avondale, Rathdrum, Co. Wicklow

**Theme:** Michael Davitt and Local  
Democracy

**Conference:** International Humbert Summer  
School

**Venue:** Newman's Institute, Ballina,  
Co. Mayo

**Theme:** General Humbert

**Conference:** Merriman Summer School

**Venue:** Spa Wells Centre, Lisdoonvarna,  
Co. Clare

**Theme:** Michael Cusack and his time

**Conference:** Training Seminar for Councillors

**Venue:** Silver Tassie Hotel, Letterkenny,  
Co. Donegal

**Theme:** Local Government and the Arts

**Conference:** Sport and Leisure Development

**Venue:** Kilkee Water World

**Theme:** The Role of the Local Authority

**Conference:** Local Government Environment  
Service

**Venue:** Walter Raleigh Hotel, Youghal,  
Co. Cork

**Theme:** Environment

**Conference:** Building Sustainable  
Communities

**Venue:** Galway Bay Hotel, Galway

**Theme:** Housing

**Conference:** Getting a Grip Conference

**Venue:** Brehon Hotel, Killarney, Co. Kerry

**Theme:** Questions and Answers about  
Addiction

**Conference:** Association of Irish Regions

**Venue:** Radisson Hotel, Rosses Point, Sligo

**Theme:** Sustainable Energy

**Conference:** Transport 21

**Venue:** Red Cow Hotel, Dublin

**Theme:** Transport

**Conference:** Neil T. Blaney

**Venue:** Institute of Technology,  
Letterkenny, Co. Donegal

**Theme:** What is Republicanism

**Conference:** Douglas Hyde Conference

**Venue:** St. Nathy's College Ballaghreen,  
Co. Roscommon

**Theme:** Various Topics





**Conference:** The Role of Local Government in Combating Anti Social Behaviour  
**Venue:** Carrick Hotel Carrick on Suir, Co. Tipperary  
**Theme:** Anti Social Behaviour

**Conference:** LAMA Winter Conference  
**Venue:** Arklow Bay Hotel, Arklow, Co. Wicklow  
**Theme:** Winter Conference

**Conference:** Ceifin Conference  
**Venue:** West County Hotel Ennis, Co. Clare  
**Theme:** Freedom - Licence or Liberty

**Conference:** Clare Tourism Conference  
**Venue:** Falls Hotel, Ennistymon, Co. Clare  
**Theme:** Promoting Co-operative Tourism Markets

**Conference:** Confederation of European Councillors  
**Venue:** Killyhevlin Hotel, Fermanagh  
**Theme:** Services for the Elderly

**Conference:** Local Government and the Budget  
**Venue:** Mill Race Hotel, Bunclody, Co. Wexford  
**Theme:** Budget 2007

**Total Costs**

Conferences at Home in 2006 - €53,941.89  
 Conferences abroad in 2006 - €23,730.79

**Foreign Conferences**

**Conference:** National Association of Councillors  
**Venue:** York  
**Theme:** Anti Social Behaviour

**Conference:** Mayors Trip to Boston  
**Venue:** Boston  
**Theme:** Business

**Conference:** Mayors Trip to Brent  
**Venue:** Brent  
**Theme:**

**Conference:** CEMR General Assembly  
**Venue:** Innsbruck, Austria  
**Theme:** The Future of Public Services

**Conference:** IFHP Spring Conference  
**Venue:** Macao China  
**Theme:** Making the Most of Resources

**Conference:** European Social Services Conference  
**Venue:** Vienna  
**Theme:** Young and Old in a Changing Europe

**Conference:** Association OF Local Democracies  
**Venue:** Budapest  
**Theme:** Minority Conflicts as a Menace to Peace or Opportunity

**Conference:** IFHP Summer Conference  
**Venue:** Geneva  
**Theme:** Urban Life Boundaries and Transformations

**Conference:** ACI Conference  
**Venue:** South Africa  
**Theme:** Airports Mean Business



## Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards 2006



### Category Winner

#### **Local Authority of the Year**

For its innovative approach to economic and social development in the county using innovation and technology to ensure that challenges are overcome.

### Category Winner

#### **Social & Community Development**

For its Traveller Employment Programme 'Removing the Margins' providing new opportunities to a marginalised community and assisting participants to realise their own potential and gain employment.

### Category Winner

#### **Environment**

For its energy efficiency project benefiting residents, the County Council and the environment.

### Category Winner

#### **Best Planning Service**

For its efficient, transparent and inclusive planning service system, serving the needs of individual customers and the community.

### Commendation in Customer Service

For "the affordable Housing initiative (Property Path), developing new approaches to encourage purchasers, to ensure widespread understanding of the affordable concept and to create ease of access for customers to a new housing option".

### Commendation in Technology

For the "ANPR/ITISS (International Traveller Information System utilising Automatic Number Plate Recognition) providing much needed traffic and travel information in a readily accessible manner to consumers".

### Winner of the European and National Planning Awards - Adamstown SDZ



## Community Services

The Department has in the main responsibility for the County Development Board, the RAPID Programme, the Social Inclusion Unit, Community Development Teams and the Sports and Arts Offices.

The Department also continues to administer its traditional role of promoting and assisting ongoing development of community activity at a local level throughout the County as well as being responsible for the day to day running of a number of community facilities in the County.

### South Dublin County Development Board

The South Dublin County Development Board was established in March 2000 as part of the local government reform programme, with the primary objective of delivering public services locally in an integrated manner. The Council is the lead agency for the Board. Membership of the Board is comprised of representatives from:

- Local Government
- Local Development
- State Agencies
- Social Partners (Farming, Business, Union, and Community and Voluntary Sectors)

In October 2002, the Board adopted the County Strategy, 2002 - 2012 'South Dublin: A Place for People' for the Economic, Social and Cultural development of the County over the following 10 years.

Following a Review of progress across the strategy as well as the associated systems and structures, which was undertaken in 2005 and completed in 2006, to develop the next phase of Implementation to cover the period 2006-2008, the new strategy and key priorities was launched in mid 2006. The Review highlighted the significant progress made by South Dublin CDB during the preceding years of implementation. Under the new Implementation Plan 35 priority actions have been identified and implementation of these actions has started.

### Sub Structures

South Dublin County Council's support role in the County Development Board extends to the various sub structures at County level. These include groups established specifically to support the implementation of actions for example the Social Inclusion Measures Co-ordination Group (SIM), Comhairle na nÓg, the County Management Group for Traveller Services and the Social Inclusion Network.

### Social Inclusion Measures Group (SIM)

The SIM Group was established in 2001 to co-ordinate the delivery of social inclusion measures identified in the National Development Plan at a local level.

### Comhairle Na nÓg

Comhairle na nÓg was established in 2002 under the National Children's Strategy and provides a forum for organisations including local and national government to consult with young people. 2006 saw the successful hosting and participation in Young Voices Seminar 2006 in November 2006. The two key objectives in the 2006 seminar were to allow young people to have a voice in matters that affect them and secondly to elect a new Comhairle from the students and the youth groups present.

Comhairle members represented South Dublin County in a range of different fora, including in 2006:

- Dail na nÓg 2006 & representation on Coiste na dTeachtaí

Over 200 delegates from all over the country attended Dail na nÓg, held in Croke Park on 25th March 2006. South Dublin had eight delegates in attendance. The themes discussed at the 2006 Dail na nÓg were 'Migration and Inter-culturalism' and 'Facilities for Young People'.

- National Childrens & Young Peoples Forum which advises the Minister for Children and the National Childrens Office





Also in 2006, the Comhairle:

- Participated in Youth Seminar in Bad Segeberg, Germany
- Produced and distributed a discussion paper on Youth Café provision
- Held the Comhairle na bPáistí - Childrens Seminar
- Coiste na dTeachtaí 2006.

The delegates from Dail na nÓg also elected a Coiste na dTeachtaí (Youth Committee). It is important to realise that Dail na nÓg is a one day event; the Coiste gives young people a chance to:

- make sure that all the ideas are heard and to follow up on what was agreed by delegates at Dail na Óg
- to meet and present the outcomes of Dail na Óg to Ministers, TDs, Government Officials and representatives of the Taoiseach's Office
- to represent Dail na nÓg at relevant conferences

Thirty eight delegates were elected, one for each of the local authorities across the country. South Dublin has one representative on the Coiste, thus giving South Dublin the chance to be represented nationally.

- The Comhairle also produced a newsletter for distribution to all secondary schools and youth services in South Dublin in 2006. The newsletter is there to inform everyone of the activities of the Comhairle and its proposals for the future.

The Comhairle Website can be visited on [www.southdublin.ie](http://www.southdublin.ie)

### **RAPID (Revitalising Areas by Planning, Investment and Development)**

The RAPID Programme aims to target the most concentrated areas of social disadvantage in urban areas across the Country.

The local structure established to implement the RAPID Programme is the Area Implementation Team (AIT). The local AITs supported by RAPID Coordinators were responsible for the development of Local Area Plans that were submitted to Government. RAPID Areas in 2006 benefited from a range of funding lines including playgrounds, estate enhancement schemes and traffic calming measures.

Five years after its inception, the RAPID Programme has been evaluated nationally by Fitzpatrick Associates (June 2006) on behalf of the DoCR&GA.

- Broadly positive findings indicate enhanced levels of resourcing to the designated areas, improved levels of partnership between communities and agencies resulting in more effective use of investment and services.

The RAPID Programme has been included for continued investment in the New National Development Plan (2007 - 2013)

### **Social Inclusion Unit**

As part of the Programme for Prosperity and Fairness and the National Anti-Poverty Strategy, eight Social Inclusion Units were established across the country on a pilot basis to develop awareness of social exclusion and to promote poverty proofing of policies. South Dublin County Council established such a unit in January 2002. The Social Inclusion Unit carries out its social inclusion objectives closely in conjunction with the Arts, Community and Sports Teams.

Key achievements of the Unit this year include:

- Development and publication of the Council's first adopted Social Inclusion Policy.
- Plain language proofed a selection of key Council documents and forms.
- SLOGO competition for Secondary School children to highlight and raise awareness of our youth to poverty and social inclusion measures within the county.





- Staff Photographic competition to highlight and raise awareness of poverty and social inclusion objectives within the County.

During 2006 the Unit also continued to co-ordinate the Council's Cross Departmental Working Group on Social Inclusion, the Social Inclusion Measures Sub-Group of CDB and the South Dublin County Social Inclusion Network.

### Community Development

The new Swimming Pools/Sports Complex Tallaght Leisure Centre at Jobstown Park in Tallaght opened its doors on 13th November 2006 to the public following completion of the €16.8m project and work is continuing at Clondalkin Sports & Leisure Centre which is a €12.7m project with Grant aid of €3.8m from the Department of Arts, Sport and Tourism being allocated in respect of each of these Projects with a further €1m allocated to the dry facilities at Tallaght Leisure Centre. The Completion date for the Clondalkin Project is mid 2007.

A major in-house review of the Council's Water Leisure Strategy was completed in 2006 and its main recommendations, adopted by Council, were:

- Provision of new Swimming Pool/Sports Complex at Lucan at site identified in Council's Development Plan
- Proposal to provide Leisure Centre including Swimming Pool in Tallaght Town Centre be removed from the Water Leisure Strategy
- Examination of existing leisure facilities including swimming pools serving the Terenure/Rathfarnham area be undertaken, identify a suitable site and work toward the development of a joint venture proposal.

The construction of the new Community and Youth facility at Knockmitten was completed and officially opened by the Mayor in May 2006.

Construction is also nearing completion on new Community/Youth Centres at Brookfield, Tallaght. The above are in addition to the many Community Centres/Neighbourhood Centres etc

in the County providing invaluable services to local communities.

Ongoing work in this area in 2006 included:

- Management Assistance Grants were paid to a number of Community Centres.
- Sponsorship of Community Employment Schemes in association with FAS continued and a further two schemes were taken on.
- Summer Projects continued throughout the County and involved over several hundred children.
- Three Family Days were held this year , in Griffeen, Corkagh Park and Tymon Park with the Family Day in Griffeen also incorporating National Play Day.
- Spoir Teic which is run in conjunction with FAS again provided training and qualification in sports coaching and recreational leadership for young people and 18 young people graduated in 2006 with a further 24 enrolling for the 2006/2007 course.
- Over 70 groups were assisted by active involvement in their projects.
- The Annual Community Awards was again a huge success. The presentation held on the 15th June 2006 was attended by over 300 community volunteers and had as a Special Guest local World Boxing Champion Bernard Dunne.
- Community Grants again assisted a variety of community events with a total of €543,080.00 approved in 2006.
- Establishment of an Educational Bursary for 4 Students with I.T. Tallaght



Tallaght Leisure Centre





## Sport and Recreation

The Council has a Sports and Recreation Office, whose primary role is to promote sport and recreation amongst all age groups and especially in areas of social disadvantage. The office worked in partnership with many agencies, schools, national governing bodies of sport, and community groups to develop and deliver a comprehensive range of activities and opportunities.

Some initiatives undertaken in 2006 were:

- Further expansion of the after schools programme in association with the FAI to promote soccer in primary schools in socially disadvantaged areas.
- Promotion of and planning of Slí na Sláinte routes with the South Western Area Health Board.
- Continuation of the Sports Bursary Scheme with I.T. Tallaght.
- Joint Venture with FAI in establishing the FAI Football in the Community Development Officers - engagement of 3 such Officers in 2006 - Lucan, Clondalkin and Tallaght.
- Schools competitions in Football, Basketball and Badminton.

South Dublin County Council were also awarded by the Irish Sports Council a Local Sport Partnership to come into operation as of from the 1st of January 2007. Work on the formation of a Committee began in 2006. The key aims of the Local Sports Partnership are to increase participation in sport, and to ensure that local resources are used to best effect.

## Play Policy

The Council adopted its first ever Play Policy for the County in July 2006 (2006 - 2009) which was developed by a cross departmental working group working closely with the Sports Recreation Community and Parks Strategic Policy Committee.

The Council subsequently in 2006 adopted a 5 Year Programme for the provision of Playground Facilities in the County.

In June volunteers received training on National Play Day aims and objectives, tasks/jobs, games, health and safety, etc.

## Arts in South Dublin County

The Council also employs a full-time Arts Officer and supports the development of the arts within the County through its commitment to a range of activities and initiatives.

The Arts Office works closely with the Council's Arts & Culture Strategic Policy Committee.

## Grant Assistance

The Council is empowered to pay grants to groups and organisations involved in all the art forms in accordance with the Arts Act 2003. 53 arts grants were allocated in 2006, including revenue support to Tallaght Community Arts Centre of €45,000. The Council's other producing arts client, arts resource organisation Alternative Entertainments based in Tymon Bawn Community Centre received funding of €19,000 in 2006.

## Exhibitions Programme

The Council makes use of its concourse at County Hall for exhibitions in order to provide individuals and arts groups with the opportunity to exhibit their work. Seven exhibitions were held in 2006.

## Artist Bursary Scheme

Each year South Dublin County Arts Office runs an annual bursary award scheme. In 2006 five bursaries were awarded in the following categories:

- two in visual arts;
- one in literature; and
- two in music.







## **FUSED South Dublin County Arts Festival**

In 2006, this festival which is co-ordinated by South Dublin County Library Services and Arts Office presented seventy five events across the county at the end of July. The programme included workshops, exhibitions and performances of music, visual arts, literature and film.

## **Per Cent for Art Scheme - In Context III**

South Dublin County Council continued to develop its public art programme, 'In Context III'. In Context is funded through the Department of the Environment Heritage and Local Government's Per Cent for Art Scheme. During 2006 the Arts Office tendered worldwide for submissions for producing work under this project and received over 70 expressions of interest - six of the presentations were accepted under this programme and officially launched on 6th December 2006. A fundamental feature of In Context III will be the provision of sufficient time for artists to meaningfully realise their projects.

## **Pilot Project - North Clondalkin**

The arts office undertook stage two of an introductory arts programme in music and dance for schools and community groups in North Clondalkin.

Artistic Residencies. Writer in Residence Dermot Bolger held a series of intensive workshops with South Dublin County's emerging writers, while Musician in Residence Finghin Collins, developed a classical music concert series featuring young musicians from South Dublin County and international performers.

## **Events**

A large no of additional cultural and artistic events were held throughout 2006 and details can be

found on the Arts Website in particular the South Dublin County Noise which was developed in 2006 and is an online virtual cultural space where young artists of all art-forms and young people in general can interact online.

Noise South Dublin is a trans-media initiative from South Dublin County Council. It is a virtual cultural space where young artists and young people in general will be given the opportunity to explore their creativity.

The Council Arts Office also held a Noise Festival in 2006 the final of which was held on 29th October 2006 and won by 6 Degrees. Six young bands from South Dublin, with participants aged between 15 and 25 years, came through three heats held in the Loose End venue (Civic Theatre) in October 2006.

The Council also held a Noise Literature Competition in 2006 for the youth of the County on short stories and poetry.

Readers Day 2006 was directed by Dermot Bolger Literature Programme.

## **Civic Theatre**

The Civic Theatre had a very successful 2006. We had 97 productions at the Civic Theatre that covered all art forms from Drama, Contemporary Dance, Ballet, Children's Theatre and Musicals. Most memorable productions included The Red Hot Runaways, Wuthering Heights, Adolf, The Crock of Gold, Tom Crean - Antarctic Explorer, Trousers, The Matchmaker, A Christmas Carol & Jack and the Beanstalk. We were delighted with our Children's summer workshop which was kindly supported by the council's arts office. The year saw over 50,000 patrons attend the theatre. Almost 80% of those come from the South County Dublin catchment area.

We are predicting that 2007 will be even more successful than last year. We are also looking forward to working with the arts officer on a new joint venture to provide young people with the experience of writing for theatre and culminating





## Parks

in a production in December 2007. South Dublin County Council is committed to the protection and sensitive, sustainable development of its physical and natural amenities, to promote access and to maximise their recreational value while protecting the county's environmental assets. The parks, open spaces and landscaped roadside margins in South Dublin County are an invaluable resource for active and passive recreational facilities, providing aesthetic enhancement and environmental improvement, thus contributing significantly to the quality of life for citizens and visitors alike.

In this regard the Council's strategy, to provide for recreational, amenity and environmental pursuits and values, continued through the maintenance and improvement of existing facilities and the provision of new areas.

### 1. Sports and Recreational Facilities

The following is a list of major recreational facilities available to the community:

- 5 Regional Parks and 50 neighbourhood Parks
- Over 4,000 acres of parks and open spaces for active and passive recreation
- 150 playing pitches for Gaelic Football, Hurling, Soccer, Rugby etc. serving almost 850 teams. Some 14,000 players use these pitches on a weekly basis
- 18 Tennis courts provided at 5 locations - Each Summer some 1,000 children use these Courts through the Dublin Parks Tennis League
- 2 All weather athletic tracks under local club management
- All weather hockey pitch at Lucan
- 11 All weather pitches at Astropark, Bancroft Park in conjunction with private sector
- Ireland's only purpose built BASEBALL facility in Corkagh Park.

- All-weather/multi use facilities in Jobstown, Tallaght and Collinstown, Clondalkin.
- The National Basketball Arena in Tymon Park continues to enjoy a high profile and hosts many major sporting and cultural events.
- Grange Castle Golf Course: The Council's municipal 'pay and play' facility which opened in 1998, continued to be well used with approximately 41,000 rounds of golf being played over the year. Grange Castle Golf Club was affiliated to the Golfing Union of Ireland in 2002, and now has a vibrant club membership of 750.
- Camac Valley Tourist Caravan & Camping Park: In 2006, a high number of number of visitors from over 40 countries stayed in the city's only municipal facility for caravan and camping holidays (see below).

Year	Tourists
2002	18994
2003	22389
2004	23173
2005	21544
2006	21618

- Corkagh Park Fishery. The fishery continues to attract many anglers/enthusiasts and has provided an additional recreational outlet. In addition to the fishery itself, the facility includes a tackle shop, fishing rod hire, coffee shop, public toilets and an outdoor timber deck and seating area. The facility will be run as a commercial enterprise that will in time develop into an educational and recreational resource.

### Parks Improvement Schemes

During 2006, a significant number of improvement schemes were undertaken in parks and open spaces throughout the County. These were financed by development levies, sports capital, RAPID programmes, Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government grants and the revenue budget for specific Parks Works Improvement Schemes.





## Projects Completed in 2006

### Tymon Park, Tallaght

- Upgrading of lake area at Willington, including new pathways, walls, fountains, planting, new toilet block.
- Installation of Sculpture by Linda Brunker (in association with PACT).

### Bancroft Park, Tallaght

- Realignment of playing pitches and pedestrian pathways and boundary improvement at Castle Park.

### Dodder Valley Park, Firhouse

- Development of a new park on the former concrete plant site.
- Tree & Bulb Planting. Undergrounding overhead power lines

### Avonbeg, Tymon South

- Construction of pathways, seating and tree planting.

### Ballyboden Owendoher

- Thin out woodland at Brookwood and install two anti-cycle gates. Construction of pathway and public lighting at Prospect Manor.

### Sean Walsh Park, Tallaght

- Redevelopment of ornamental lake including construction of viewing area, removal of silt and repair of surrounding pathway. Construction of new pathways and installation of bridges.

### Killinarden Park, Tallaght

- Improvement of pitches and boundary. Construction of a second playground adjacent to the community centre.

### Jobstown, Tallaght

- Improvement of pedestrian pathways and entrances. Extension and improvement of playground.

### Kiltalown Park, Tallaght

- Improvement of pathways and boundary treatment. Installation of 'MUGA' facility and Teen shelter.

- Upgrading of existing boundary between Kiltalown House and the adjoining park.
- Erection of security fencing between private properties and the park.

### Rathcoole Park

- Provide decorative lighting on trees at Fitzmaurice Road

### Collinstown Park, Clondalkin

- Construction of a playground and creation of a Slí na Sláinte route.

### St. Cuthbert's Park, Deansrath

- Enhancement of boundary and entrance adjacent to Deansrath Community College creation of a Slí na Sláinte route.

### Sarsfield Park, Lucan

- Replacement of pathway and steps from the estate to the Lucan Road

### Griffen Valley Park, Lucan

- The development of a skate-park adjacent to the Sports & Leisure Complex
- Construction of pathways and cycle-ways

### Glenaulin Park, Palmerstown

- Realignment of stream and provision of new bridge. Extension of pedestrian pathway system to facilitate Slí na Sláinte route.

### Liffey Valley, Waterstown Park

- Construction of pathways and cycle-ways

Five Year Playground Programme adopted by Members in December 2006.

## Other Works

- Parks Works Programme: Through the annual programme an expenditure of €455,000 was utilised to undertake a range of small improvement schemes in every part of the County. The programme included improvement of the existing children's playgrounds in Corkagh Park and Griffen Valley Park; the construction of pedestrian pathways and the



improvement of entrances and boundaries in a number of locations.

- **Bonfires:** The Council designated three official bonfire sites to reduce the incidences of bonfires in the County at Halloween. Parks staff were actively involved in collecting material in the weeks preceding the festival and gathering up the burned material from over 450 bonfires afterwards cost an estimated €114,000.
- **Litter Collection:** Collecting and removal of litter from parks, open spaces and roadsides continued on a regular basis throughout the year. An estimated 4,000 tons of material was removed from open spaces in 2006.
- **Tree Programmes:** The annual arboricultural programme was undertaken from October 2005 to March 2006, during which approximately 5,000 trees were planted in parks, open spaces and streets throughout the County. The programme also entailed the planting of approximately 10,000 hedging plants to screen walls within housing estates. Existing street trees in housing estates were pruned, comprising over 5,000 trees in several hundred estates.

## Other Activities

### Intoxicating Liquor Bye-Laws

Parks Department administer the operation of the South Dublin County Council Bye-Laws prohibiting the consumption of Intoxicating Liquor in Public Places as introduced in August 2001. During the year over 300 offences under the Bye-Laws were detected by the Gardai, which were pursued by the Council by the issuing of a Fixed Payment Notice, demanding payment of €63.50. Where payment is not forthcoming the Council may initiate a prosecution through the Courts and a number of successful prosecutions were processed during 2006, resulting in a combined overall income of over €21,000.

### Customer Care

Under the CARE service, park rangers will continue to perform their traditional function of policing parks but their role is expanded to include provision of educational activities and guided tours in parks to assist schools, community groups and members of the public in their use and appreciation of parks.

The response from teachers is very encouraging; they see the initiative of the CARE Programme as a perfect complement to the required environmental element of the school curriculum.



Skate Park at Lucan





## Libraries

South Dublin County Council provides a public library service which addresses the needs of local communities particularly in the areas of lifelong learning, information, literature and culture. Libraries offer universal access in a welcoming and supportive environment and use developing technologies to extend access to global information beyond library walls.

### Library Statistics 2006

Number of Libraries	7
Number of Mobile Libraries	4
Number of Visitors	990,153
Number of items borrowed	983,739
Number of items in stock	718,890
Number of registered borrowers	79,707
Number of events, Lectures and Exhibitions	2492
Number of Internet Sessions	64,181
Number of Virtual Visitors	115,886
Schools Library Service	96
Hours of service per week	313 per week
Bookfund expenditure per capita	3.85 Euro

- DVD Library
- CDROM and Playstation Games
- Wi-Fi available at all branches
- Art Print lending Service
- Large Print Collections
- Internet and ICT Access
- DVD/Video Viewing Facilities
- Exhibitions
- Seminars. Lectures and Workshops
- Language Classes
- Books in range of world languages
- Children's Book festival
- World Book Day
- National and International newspapers
- On-line world newspapers
- Writer's Groups
- Book Clubs
- County Council Information
- Local Studies Collections
- Photocopying Services
- Arts Activities
- Book Promotions
- User Education tours
- Class visits
- Application forms; Social welfare, Passport etc
- Parent and Toddler Groups
- Magazines and Periodicals

### Services

The branch network at Ballyroan, Castletymon, Clondalkin, Lucan and Tallaght serves a population of 240,000 in 68,000 households. Last year over 990,153 people visited these libraries and 979,056 items were borrowed. A part time facility is in operation in Whitechurch at Taylor's lane and in partnership with Stewarts Hospital we support a library facility on the hospital campus.

Core services offered at our branch libraries include:

- Adult and Children's lending service
- Adult and Children's Reference Service
- Young Adult Collections
- Welcome brochure in 10 languages
- Music CDs, books on cassette and CD

### Open and Accessible Places

990,153 people visited South Dublin County libraries during 2006. The library service has the highest average number of opening hours per week for full time libraries in the country.

Through the library website [www.southdublinlibraries.ie](http://www.southdublinlibraries.ie) customers can renew and reserve their items using the online catalogue and can search for information using a range of online databases. During 2006 over 18,000 items were renewed using this online facility. Added functionality to the online catalogue now allows customers see book covers as they search for required items.

The Schools Library Service provides a lending, reference and advisory service to 27,660 pupils in 96 Primary Schools across the County.





The Mobile Library fleet provides an invaluable service to various communities unable to access a static library branch. 4 Mobile Libraries visit 45 scheduled stops weekly and provided a countywide service in 2006 to over 500 housebound people.

### Digital Places

64,181 Internet sessions were availed of during 2006 and four new IT Suites were put in place in Ballyroan, Castletymon, Clondalkin and Lucan Libraries. These new facilities provide state of the art computing for adults and children through:

- Full free Internet Access
- Microsoft Office Suite
- ECDL
- Encyclopaedia Britannica Online for Children and Adults
- XRefer online reference service
- World newspapers in many languages
- Educational and entertaining software for children

### Assistive Technologies

A range of technologies for people with disabilities are now available across our branch network including Kurzweil reading and learning software, Zoom Text, Alternative Computer Mice, Keyboards and height adjustable tables.

Free Wi Fi is now available across our branch network.

Irish Newspaper Archive online offering Irish Newspapers back to 1763 including the Freeman's Journal.

Digital access to the archive of Ireland's Historical Ordnance Survey Maps from 1837 to 1913

[www.southdublinlibraries.ie](http://www.southdublinlibraries.ie) had 115,886 virtual visitors during 2006.

### Life Long Learning Places

During 2006 over 2472 events and activities took place across the library service opening possibilities and stimulating imagination, exploration and life long learning. These events are delivered as single events, series, programmed sessions and workshops. Books are now available in ten languages as is the library welcome brochure, Computer Training is offered for adults and children, Language Classes in a range of languages, Film Clubs for Teenagers, Art and Music courses and sessions on using Digital Media are also available.

### Language Learning Programmes

During 2006 branch libraries ran courses in Irish, French, Spanish, Italian and Polish. The Polish classes arose from a demand from Irish people interacting with Poles through work and socially. English classes are held in all branches and at two levels - beginners and intermediate. These programmes together with foreign language books and newspapers attract members of new communities into our libraries.

### Seachtain na Gaeilge

Seachtain na Gaeilge the Irish language and cultural festival was celebrated from 3rd to 17th March across the branch library service. Over forty events took place including traditional music workshops, recitals, readings, ceilís, and other cultural events.

### Fused 2006

The Fused Festival which ran from July 15th to 22nd celebrates the work of local, national and international artists in the areas of visual arts, dance, literature, music and film. Over thirty events were hosted across all branch libraries with capacity audiences at each event. A Fused programme for children ran concurrently during the festival.





## Children’s Book Festival 2006

Let Yourself Go! Was the theme of the Children’s Book Festival 2006 which ran for two weeks and during which seventy two child-focused events took place across the branch network. Established and emerging authors gave workshops and readings including John Boyne, author of the bestseller ‘Boy in the Stripped Pyjamas’.

## Reading Places

In February 2006 The County Library, Tallaght, hosted the launch of BorrowBooks.ie a website which allows people search across the Irish public libraries online catalogues to locate material not available locally. Requested items can then be collected at a local branch library. South Dublin Libraries were part of the pilot study for the service which was launched by Minister Dick Roche.

Readers Day, held annually, further enhancing reader development within the library service, took place on Saturday 4th with over two hundred local people in attendance. Readers Day 2006 featured local and international authors including Booker prize winner John Banville, Brendan Keneally, Kate Holmquist, Jennifer Johnston, Ferdia MacAnna and Conal Creedon. A specially commissioned poem ‘First Book’ by Dermot Bolger was written to mark the day.

## Begin With Books

Begin with Books marks the commencement of an ongoing campaign aimed at encouraging parents within the County to read to and with their young children. Begin with Books featured a kit of five picture books for children from birth to two years in a specially designed bag which parents could borrow for three months from their local library. A marketing campaign included mail shots to housing estates across the County resulted in a very successful campaign which marked the start of reading adventures for more than five thousand young library members.

## Heritage and Local Studies

Through our Local Studies Service the history and archaeology of the County is recorded and disseminated to the local community. Throughout 2006 the emphasis has been on digitising resources in order to make for ease of access. 2000 images of the County and its people have been added to [www.southdublincountyimages.ie](http://www.southdublincountyimages.ie) and 100 images of the area have been placed on [www.askaboutireland.ie](http://www.askaboutireland.ie)

Three new publications were produced - ‘St Mochua and the Round Tower’, ‘A Pictorial History of Brittas Saggart and Newcastle’ and ‘Glenasmole Roads’.

An increasing focus of the Local Studies Department has involved activities out in the community - A Walk in Lord Massey’s Woods, Children’s Treasure Hunt in association with Coillte, walking tour of Bohernabreena Reservoir, and a guided walk of St Mary’s Priory.



South Dublin Libraries IT Facilities





## Economic Development

The Economic Development Department, through its various activities, plays a leading role in the economic development of the County. The Economic Development role of the Department is fulfilled by provision of sites for major investment and by support of local enterprise, and through the Property Management function, lands are acquired and disposed of to facilitate construction of Roads and Sanitary services, Housing and Community services.

The Department also works with other Council Departments, State Agencies, Area Partnerships and the County Development Board to promote the potential of South Dublin in line with the County Strategy, for tourism, arts and culture, sports and leisure and urban and village initiatives. The Council's role in controlling dereliction and addressing dangerous places is also carried out by the Economic Development Department.

### Economic Development - Grange Castle Business Park

The Council supports commercial and business development both indirectly by providing essential infrastructure and services, and directly by the provision of serviced and zoned lands.

In 2006, South Dublin County experienced continuing commercial and industrial development by the private sector. The Council, in association with IDA Ireland, continued the promotion of the Council owned Business Park at Grange Castle, Clondalkin ([www.grangecastle.ie](http://www.grangecastle.ie)) to ensure that South Dublin is marketed as the premier strategic location for international investment. In March 2006 planning permission was granted to IDA Ireland in respect of an advance planning application for an integrated circuit manufacturing and research campus at Grange Castle. This is in line with IDA policy to provide advance planning on strategic sites pioneered in Oranmore, Co Galway. In November 2006 IAWS GROUP plc commenced construction of their new facility in Grange Castle including the development of a corporate HQ involving an investment of c €100m.

The two clients situated in Grange Castle are Wyeth & Takeda. Construction is complete on the Wyeth BioPharma Campus at Grange Castle.

Takeda Chemical Industries Limited is Japan's largest pharmaceutical company and one of the top twenty pharmaceutical companies worldwide. The new Irish subsidiary, called Takeda Pharma Ireland Ltd. (TPI), will be the first bulk pharmaceutical plant constructed overseas by Takeda. Upon completion it will, enhance Takeda's capacity to deliver bulk products on a global basis. The new plant commenced operation in 2005 and it is expected to make major contributions to product supply, process research, and cost competitiveness. The Takeda Pharma Ireland Ltd development consists of 8500 sq. metres of buildings on a site of approximately 20 acres. This investment of €100 million will result in the creation of 60 high quality jobs plus additional full time contracted service positions bringing the total employment of Takeda in Ireland to over 300.

During 2006, the Economic Development Department continued the Council's programme of expanding the services and infrastructure within the Business Park. Construction commenced in 2006 of the road South from Takeda to the Nangor Road, incorporating the third entrance to the Business Park and a bus terminus.

Following a two stage procurement process Menolly Homes were selected as the preferred developer for the residential/leisure/golf clubhouse development at Grange Castle. A planning application in respect of the development was lodged in December 2006.

### Economic Development - Local Enterprise

The Development Department is actively involved in the promotion of local enterprise. To date Local Enterprise Centres have been constructed and are now operational at Neilstown (1996), Brookfield (1998) Killinarden Enterprise Park (2002) and







Bawnogue Enterprise and Community Centre (2003). In each of these four Enterprise Centres, the development of the enterprise facilities was led by the Council and co-ordinated by a group comprising representatives of South Dublin County Council, the Clondalkin and Tallaght Partnerships, Enterprise Ireland, South Dublin County Enterprise Board and local community development representatives.

The Council is represented on the Bawnogue Enterprise & Community Centre Board of Directors and also on the Committee which monitors the ongoing operation of the Killinarden & Brookfield Enterprise Centres.

The Economic Development Department continued to liaise with the business community in South Dublin and the South Dublin Chamber, with local development groups, individuals and companies, in the promotion of South Dublin and to encourage and support economic development throughout the County. In 2006 South Dublin Chamber commenced the development of an Economic Strategy for South Dublin County with the relevant stakeholders, following the 2005 Economic Audit of the County.

### South Dublin County Tourism Company

The South Dublin County Tourism Company was inaugurated in early 2005 and consists of 18 Directors representing the Elected Members of South Dublin County Council, the hoteliers, golf clubs, tourism organisations, shopping centres, cultural organisations and chamber of commerce in the South Dublin County.

In 2006 the Company:

- Completed a Three Year Business Plan for South Dublin County Tourism
- Established a comprehensive website [www.southdublincountytourism.ie](http://www.southdublincountytourism.ie)
- Developed a range of brochures promoting the County and introduced distribution system.

- Developed campaigns to promote the County at specific times of the year i.e Know where to Stay?
- Attended trade and consumer shows on behalf of the industry
- Organised inaugural 'Hallowfest' festival.

### Key Projects Co-ordination Group

The Council's Key Projects Co-ordination Group encompasses the various disciplines within the organisation to fast track strategic projects within South Dublin County. The projects targeted for fast tracking in 2006 were:

- Clondalkin Town Centre Framework Plan
- Grange Castle Golf Course Lands (Hotel, Clubhouse and Residential)
- Corkagh Housing Lands (Energy/ Ecological Project)
- Tallaght Town Centre (Expansion and Framework Plan)
- Tallaght/N81 Environmental and Landscape Strategy
- Adamstown Implementation Plan
- Kildare Route Project
- County Arts Centre
- Green Routes

While planning and design work is continuing on these projects to ensure their early delivery other projects will be identified for consideration by the group in 2007.

### South Dublin County Enterprise Board

The Council is represented on the South Dublin County Enterprise Board by four Councillors and a representative of the County Manager. The





County Enterprise Board was established in 1993 and its objectives are to develop and support local entrepreneurship and enterprise, and to promote and stimulate the creation of additional employment within the County through the growth of local micro-enterprise. See [www.sdenterprise.com](http://www.sdenterprise.com)

### Land Acquisition

The Council acquires land and property by agreement, by Compulsory Purchase Order or by Deed of Dedication for the provision of motorways and roads, housing, open spaces, community facilities, industrial development, parks and environmental services.

The following Compulsory Purchase Orders were confirmed in 2006:

- South Dublin Co Council CPO (Nangor Road Improvement Scheme) Order 2006.
- South Dublin Co Council CPO (Robinhood Road - Ballymount Reconfiguration) Order 2006.

Processing of compensation claims in relation to various CPOs which were confirmed in previous years continued in 2006.

### Land Disposal and Asset Management

The Council disposes of lands which are required for community facilities, educational facilities, or for housing or commercial development.

Disposals range from large housing sites to small areas of land to be incorporated into adjoining properties to eliminate incidences of anti-social behaviour or required by developers to consolidate their ownership. The Development Department is usually approached at the preliminary proposal stage and it then liaises with the other Council Departments to ensure that the Council's interests are protected prior to and following the disposals.

Co-ordination takes place with the Planning Department regarding the zoning and

development control aspects of each proposal, with Environmental Services Department regarding the presence of services which may constrain a proposal, with Roads Department regarding the traffic and parking implications, with Housing Department regarding Estate Management, Part V and other issues and with Community Department and Parks Department regarding the impacts on their activities of any request for land.

The valuation of Council lands and negotiations of terms and conditions for disposal, is carried out on the Council's behalf by the Chief Valuers' Office of Dublin City Council.

In 2006 thirty eight no. recommendations were submitted for the approval of the Council pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, relating to the disposal of a total of thirty eight no. parcels of land.

The Council also approved the disposal of 8 fee simple interests in respect of 8 no residential properties.

The Council continued to finalise the legal aspects of disposals approved in previous years including the completion of leases in respect of sites contained in the Integrated Area Plans where development on site was brought to an advanced stage.

### Property Management

This entails the management of the Council's property portfolio. Monitoring of properties for sale and identifying other opportunities for key acquisitions continued in 2006. Lands acquired by the Council and not required for immediate use are let for grazing and tillage purposes. The management also involves the granting and renewal of leases, wayleaves and rights of way over Council lands. Temporary Convenience Lettings of properties are also granted until such time as the property is required for the Council's statutory purposes.





The referencing of lands in the Council's administrative area in relation to a range of property management and development projects is carried out by this Department. The Referencers carry out works on behalf of several Departments including Planning (planning applications, enforcement action, development plans), Roads (road schemes, CPO's) Finance (rates arrears, public liability claims) and Environmental Services (land acquisition and wayleaves).

**Dangerous Structures/Places**

Where a dangerous structure or place is brought to the attention of the Council, the Development Department co-ordinates with the Architectural Services Department and appropriate action is taken under the provisions of the Local Government (Sanitary Services) Act, 1964 to have the danger eliminated. In cases of imminent danger, the Council has power to enter on the site and have the danger removed. While the Council is vigilant in pursuing these matters, public awareness in bringing dangers to the attention of the Council remains an important safeguard to the community. There were 86 inspections carried out throughout 2006, as a result of reports of alleged dangerous sites or building/walls. As a result of these inspections, the Council issued 22 letters to owners, in regard to potentially dangerous structures, and 18 notices under the Sanitary Services Act, 1964. Accordingly, danger was eliminated from 29 locations. The council also monitored various locations where danger had been eliminated in previous years to ensure that these properties remained in a safe condition.

on 54 alleged derelict sites. These inspections resulted in 6 letters being issued to owners of properties, outlining steps to be taken to tidy up sites. Notices under the Derelict Sites Act, 1990, were served in 3 cases where the properties were considered derelict within the meaning on the Derelict Sites Act, 1990. As a result of these actions seven properties were rendered non derelict in 2006. Although the Council has the power to acquire properties (which remain in a persistent derelict state) under the Derelict sites act it was not considered necessary to acquire any properties in 2006. In other cases, the problems were resolved following discussions on site between the Council's Engineer and the owners.



Grange Castle

**Derelict Sites**

Since the enactment of the Derelict Sites Act, 1990, the Council has had considerable success in counteracting land dereliction and the Council is committed to maintaining this impetus in the interests of enhancing the County through the elimination of dereliction. During 2006, inspections and re-inspections were carried out





## Environmental Services

### Waste Management Plan

During 2006, the Council continued the implementation of the Waste Management Plan for the Dublin Region 2005-2010. The plan is the foundation for future sustainable management of solid waste in the Region.

The Plan on [www.dublinwaste.ie](http://www.dublinwaste.ie) is based on the priorities of waste minimisation, on maximising recycling and minimising landfill by recovery through thermal treatment.

### Waste Management Operations

The Council continued to provide an integrated waste management service in 2006.

- A weekly collection of domestic refuse was provided for 84,300 householders throughout the County each producing an average of 1.2 tonnes of waste and recycling material.
- Waste is baled at the Council's Baling Station at Ballymount, and is disposed of in the Council's engineered landfill at Arthurstown.
- Facilities are available at Ballymount Civic Amenity and Recycling Centre for householders to dispose of household waste, household green waste, recyclable waste and at the Green Waste facility at Esker Lane, Lucan for disposal of household green waste.
- The Green Bin household collection and recycling service for waste paper, cardboard, aluminium tin and tetra pak continued to expand during 2006. A total of 13,815 tonnes of recyclable material was collected in South Dublin County through this service.
- The Council provided 51 bring bank facilities around the County in 2006.

### Environmental Waste Charge

The Pay-Per-Use system which was introduced in 2004 has resulted in a continuing reduction in the amount of waste presented for disposal at landfill.

### Cleansing and Litter Control Service

The Council's Road Sweeping Programme continued in 2006 with main roads and housing estates being swept on a regular basis.

The Council's six Litter Wardens enforced the litter legislation and also provided advice and assistance to Residents Associations in organising clean-ups etc. including assistance during National Spring Clean.

In May 2006 the Council commenced a pilot scheme in an effort to deal with the graffiti menace throughout the County by the employment of a graffiti crew.

A total of 680 Litter Fines were issued during 2006, and 70 Direct Prosecutions were initiated.

### Environmental Awareness

The Environmental Awareness Team organised South Dublin County Council Eco Week which took place from the 3rd-8th April 2006 - a week long schedule of activities targeting the theme of Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. Over 1000 people attended 40 events which included eco-walks, composting workshops, Waste Watchers training and 'Slim your Bin' workshops.

The Beautiful South Dublin County competition was again a big success in 2006, achieving its objectives of:

- Encouraging an appreciation of our Environment; and
- Developing Community Spirit.

There were almost one hundred entries from residents associations, streets and the commercial sector. The competition had three new sections in 2006 - Best Waste Management Initiative, Local Green Hero, Best Apartments.

The overall winner was Castle Park, Castle Lawns Estate, Tallaght.





The first Beautiful South Dublin County Schools competition was held in 2006. The competition highlighted the principles of Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, environmental improvement and tackling the litter problem.

### **An Taisce Green Flag Awards**

In 2006, 30 schools in South Dublin County attained the Green Flag environmental standard in An Taisce Green Schools programme.

### **Water Maintenance**

As South Dublin County Council is not a water producer, some 70ML/day of treated water is purchased from Dublin City Council and Fingal County Council from water treatment facilities at Ballymore Eustace and Leixlip.

Water is distributed through the 1400 kilometre water-mains network, to over 84,000 households and over 5,000 commercial customers countywide. The quality of water is reported upon annually by the EPA. The most recent report, entitled the 'The Quality of Drinking Water in Ireland', 2005, ranks the water quality as 99.2% overall compliance, which is well above the national average as reported by the EPA.

During 2006, the Council replaced and refurbished over 3.7 kilometres of water-main as part of the network improvement programme. Staff based at Deansrath Depot, also provided a key support to developers through the implementation of the Water Maintenance Section water specification for new and replacement work and the Water Bye-Laws.

### **Water Network Management**

The Council continues to participate in the Dublin Region Water Conservation Project (DRWCP) which commenced in 1998. The current phase of this project is at maintenance and rehabilitation stages and day to day active leakage management

is undertaken by a small dedicated team. Leakage levels in South Dublin County are uniquely at an all time low of 19.4% for 2006 and the Council is committed to reaching the DEHLG set target of 16% loss of unaccounted for water by 2016. The rehabilitation phase of the DRWCP has recently commenced with the implementation of the Dublin Region Water-main Rehabilitation Project which has the primary objective of conserving water across the entire Region. The Non-Domestic Metering Project has moved to construction stage. This project will ensure that all commercial customers are metered and charged for their water usage in a fair manner in compliance with the EU and Government Water Pricing Policy.

In November 2006, tender documents for the Boherboy Water Supply Scheme were approved by the Department of the Environment Heritage and Local Government. It is planned to commence construction in 2007 with completion envisaged by the early 2009. The Scheme will enhance and extend the water supply network in the West and South of the County.

### **Drainage Maintenance**

In 2006 this Direct Labour Section laid approximately 1.3 kilometres of new foul and surface water sewers. In addition works at various pumping stations were also completed. Operational activities during the year also included clearing and flushing of sewers and chokes, provision of connections to facilitate new development, stream and screen cleaning and pumping station maintenance.

### **Water Pollution Control**

The EU Water Framework Directive requires that 'good water' status be achieved and maintained in all water bodies - rivers, streams and lakes by the year 2015. The Council's commitment is being realised through participation in the Eastern River Basin District (ERBD) Project.

The Pollution Control Team is responsible for the monitoring, reviewing and issuing of trade





effluent licences to businesses. In 2006, a total of 142 licences were in force under the Local Government (Water Pollution) Acts 1977 & 1990, the EPA Act 1992, and the Waste Management Act 1996.

### **Fire Services**

During 2006, Dublin City Council continued to provide the fire service and the emergency ambulance service in the County. The primary fire station for the County is located at Belgard Road, Tallaght with back up from Dolphin's Barn, Blanchardstown and Nutgrove Avenue stations as required.

### **Veterinary Service**

The Council's Veterinary Officers are involved in the supervision, control and licensing of private abattoirs, meat production plants and monitoring of the sale and distribution of milk. During 2006 the Council continued the service contract with the Food Safety Authority of Ireland. Regular inspections were also carried out at the Council's Horse Pound and Dog Pound.

### **Environmental Health**

The Environmental Health Officer service for the County provides services to a range of Departments in matters such as housing, planning, air and noise complaints.

### **Control of Dogs**

The Council employs two full time Dog Wardens who monitor dog control under the Control of Dogs Act. The Wardens patrol the County and issue fines for offences such as keeping a dog without a licence or not keeping a dog under effectual control. They also impound stray dogs and dogs which are surrendered by their owners. In 2006, 7739 dog licences were issued and 599 fines were issued. The Council's dog pound is located at Dunboyne.

### **Control of Horses**

The Council's horse pound is located in Urlingford. Wandering horses are rounded up by the Council's Parks Department staff and transferred to the pound. The Department also processes applications for horse licences.

The Environment Strategic Policy Committee met on four occasions in 2006 and considered the following issues:

- Waste Management Plan - Progress Report
- Water Services Investment Programme
- Report on Greater Dublin Water Supply
- Report on the Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Greater Dublin Strategic Drainage Study Strategy.
- Waste Management (End of Life Vehicle) Regulations
- Report of Bring Banks Working Group
- Beautiful South Schools Competition
- UK proposals for nuclear facilities
- Report on Junk Collections
- Sustainable Energy
- Anti Social Behaviour Report
- Recycling including Bring Bank Network.

### **Headlines**

- Improved Environmental Services Department Website containing lots of additional information for our customers.
- 28,134 Environmental Services queries were dealt with through the electronic Customer Contact system.



- Integrated Waste Management Service provided to over 84,300 households.
- Almost 10,000 tonnes of waste was collected from scheduled road-sweeping and associated duties throughout the County.
- Continued high commitment from Residents Associations, Businesses, Youth Groups, Hotels, Pubs and Business Parks in the Beautiful South Dublin Competition.
- Complaints were investigated and notices served on offenders in relation to Public Health Nuisances.
- Environmental Awareness staff visited 50 schools throughout the County.
- 147 Licences under the Water Pollution Acts and the EPA Act in force.
- 937 abandoned and end of life cars were removed for disposal.
- 680 Litter Fines & 70 Direct Prosecutions issued.
- 7,732 complaints concerning environmental pollution were received and investigated.
- Assistance provided by the Litter Wardens to community clean-ups.
- 7,739 dog licences and a total of 599 on-the-spot dog control fines were issued
- Junk collections were provided to 24,511 households.
- Approximately 6.25 million plastic bottles were recycled in 2006 - an increase of 1.25 million on 2005.
- 533 composters delivered to householders and schools.



Bring Centre at Ahernes Pub in Tallaght



# Housing

## Construction Programme

The position at the end of 2006 of the Council's Multi-Annual Housing Construction Programme 2004 - 2008, for which the Department of the Environment, Heritage & Local Government allocated 1,920 house starts, is:

Stage of Development	No of Units
Completions	448
On Site (excluding Part V)	648
Contracts Signed	7
Tenders Advertised	7
Cost Plan/Tender Production	365
Part 8 Approved by Council	4
Part 8 on Display	31
Design/Concept	334
<b>Total</b>	<b>1844</b>

14 schemes were on site at the end of 2006 comprising 339 housing units in the Tallaght area, 280 in the Lucan/Clondalkin area and 29 in the Terenure/Rathfarnham area. Agreements were in place for the delivery of a further 85 social units under Part V arrangements at the end of 2006.

Potential sites are also being examined and presentations of resulting concepts will be made to the Area Committees over the course of the programme.

## Housing Strategy

The Council's Housing Strategy, which was prepared in accordance with Part V of the Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended) was reviewed during 2004 for the period 2004 - 2010 as an integral part of the review of the County Development Plan and was adopted by the Council on 10th November 2004.

During 2006 the Housing Department continued to negotiate with developers in relation to the 15% requirement on site for social/affordable housing in new residential developments.

## Affordable Housing Initiative

The Affordable Housing Initiative (AHI), introduced under the Sustaining Progress Social Partnership Agreement, aims to accelerate the delivery of affordable housing through the release of State and Local Authority owned lands.

Lands in Council ownership at The Grange (Nangor), Balgaddy and Mayfield in Clondalkin and Hazelgrove (Killinarden) and Fortunestown in Tallaght have been identified as suitable for development purposes under the Affordable Housing Initiative.

A draft framework agreement has been prepared for the development of The Grange Lands, comprising 34.4 hectares, to accommodate residents in over 1600 high quality home. These lands will be developed by Public Private Partnership with anticipated completion of phase 1 to include including social/affordable homes in 2009.

Planning permission has been granted pursuant to Part VIII of the Planning and Development Regulations 2000-2003 for the construction of 160 affordable units at Fortunestown Tallaght. It is anticipated these units will become available in 2009.

Feasibility studies are currently being prepared for sites at Balgaddy, Mayfield and Fortunestown.

## Rental Accommodation Scheme

The Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS) commenced in South Dublin in November 2005. During 2006, the Health Service Executive made 2,000 referrals with 171 transfers completed.







**Dealing with Anti-Social Behaviour:**

The Anti-Social team responded to 1,263 complaints in 2006 and the following actions were taken:

House calls made	1542
Interviews conducted	1398
Warnings given	143
Evictions Notices served	18
Clinics held	380
(Attended by a Community Garda and Allocations Support Officer)	

Two major initiatives began this year:

**1. Enforcement Projects**

Cross departmental teams focusing the Council's enforcement powers on particular estates/areas involving house inspections, investigation referrals, issue of warnings, eviction notices, litter and dog licence fines etc in co-operation with Community Gardaí. An initial project was carried out in Deansrath and Kilmahuddrick Estates.

**2. Family Support Projects**

Run by the Council's Welfare Officers and Anti-Social Officers together with Voluntary Sector Family Support Providers, Health Services Executive and other agencies as required to provide intensive supports for families at risk of eviction. Acceptable Behaviour Contracts are agreed between Council and tenant where changed behaviour and co-operation on the part of the tenant is acknowledged by the Council not proceeding with legal action. The pilot phase has seen five families being supported with more being considered for inclusion on the programme.

**Estate Management**

The Council's Estate Management Service continued to develop relationships with communities through emphasising the county wide focus and standardised approach to the service.

5 new Residents Associations were set up in 2006. The Fettercairn Residents Association

received an award in the All-Ireland 'Pride of Place' competition and 3 other Residents Associations received awards in their categories at the 'Beautiful South' Competition with Castlepark/Castle Lawns winning the overall award.

21 pre-tenancy courses were given during the year, attended by 326 housing applicants.

There are 4 Junior Estate Management groups in the County in Fettercairn, Kiltalown, Jobstown and Killinarden. These groups participated in urban art projects, environmental projects, sport initiatives, clean ups and training courses. The Jobstown Group won an Eco-Unesco Young Environmental Award and a community award for their work on a community garden.

**Housing Projects**

Programmes designed to achieve common quality standards in the Council's housing stock are progressing. This will be achieved through a number of measures such as the installation of gas fired central heating, refurbishment works, electrical rewiring, cavity wall and attic insulation, mains smoke alarms and window renewal.

The Accelerated Gas Central Heating Programme was completed early in 2006 and follow-on programmes are now being progressed to increase the energy efficiency of our housing stock, whilst making our tenants homes more comfortable, safer, healthier and more economical to run.

**Traveller Integrated Service Delivery Project**

The integrated service delivery project was extended to developments at Belgard Park, Daletree Place and St.Aidan's in addition to the original pilot projects at Oldcastle Park and Marfield Crescent. This project aims to facilitate the delivery of targeted services to Travellers resident in the county by the Council in partnership Health Service Executive, FAS, Department of Education and Science, VEC, Gardaí, the Department of Social, Community and Family Affairs and representatives from Traveller support groups.





The Council continues to be proactive in the employment and training of Travellers with the co-operation of FAS, resulting in the employment of Travellers in the Council in clerical/administration positions and as general operatives in Parks Department. This was the first initiative of its kind in the Country and represents a significant step forward in the creation of opportunities for Travellers.

The Council, in conjunction with the Department of Education and St. Aidan's Community School, has developed a detailed proposal on the creation of an e-learning project which will enhance educational achievement among new school entrants is being developed.

There were three unauthorised encampments in the County at year end.

### Homeless Services

The Council continued implementation of the Action Plan on Homelessness 2004-2006 aimed at ensuring delivery of effective and integrated responses to homeless people with particular emphasis on preventative measures and the provision of localised services.

In 2006, the Council allocated 13 permanent housing units to homeless applicants, 2 were housed by Voluntary Housing Associations with 11 additional applicants awarded overall priority and awaiting allocation of housing units.

27 transitional accommodation units managed by Sophia and Sonas Housing Associations providing 94 beds were available to homeless applicants throughout 2006. A Women's Refuge, managed by Saoirse Housing Association, was provided in Tallaght in 2006. The provision of 24 housing units in Tallaght primarily for persons who have been homeless, developed with Focus Ireland, was nearing completion at the end of 2006.

The Council established outreach and tenancy sustainment services in 2006 as part of its overall response to homelessness.

### Allocations

A new Scheme of Letting Priorities was approved by the Minister of Housing and Urban Renewal

on 21/12/2006 which replaces the points system with time on list.

### Key Indicators

- 294 families housed in Newly Built/Acquired dwellings
- 184 further families housed through Casual Vacancies
- 105 Transfer requests granted
- 187 houses provided by Voluntary Housing Bodies - total Voluntary stock now 782 units
- 760 Voluntary Housing units under construction/being planned, including emergency homeless accommodation
- Voluntary housing programme expenditure was €18.2m
- 555 Applicants approved for the Affordable Housing list in 2006.
- 88 units of affordable accommodation allocated & occupied in 2006.
- 38 affordable units allocated subject to the completion of contracts in 2006.
- 107 dwellings sold under Sales scheme.
- Council's rented housing stock now 7,967
- Over 16,500 maintenance requests received with 97.45% completed within target time-frames.
- Housing Maintenance budget for 2006 was €8.64M.
- Cavity wall and attic insulation programme commenced February 2006 - 683 walls and 354 attics completed.
- Mains smoke alarm programme commenced May 2006 - 1,627 alarms fitted in 2006.





- 43 units refurbished in the Cushlawn, Moorfield and Greenfort/Shancastle estates during 2006.
- 120 pre-1975 units completed under the Electrical Upgrade Programme.
- Laneway Closure Programme for Moorfield Estate completed with closure of 11 laneways.
- 1,963 tenant installed gas fired central heating systems inspected in 2006.
- Programme commenced to replace all tenant installed oil fired central heating systems - 20 units replaced in 2006.
- Rent collected was €17.7 million and the average weekly rent was €42.57
- 2,462 live loans on our portfolio with collection of €7.9m
- 42 applications received under the Shared Ownership scheme.
- One applicant facilitated under the Scheme involving an advance of €190,000.
- An additional applicant financed the purchase of an affordable unit of accommodation under the scheme involving a total advance of €178,299.63.
- 182 Disabled Persons Grants paid in 2006 at a cost of €3.1m.
- 115 Essential Repair Grants approved at a cost of €605,514.
- Progress on Traveller specific accommodation continued:
  - 8 Traveller Residential Caravan Parks in place accommodating 68 families
  - Traveller Group Housing for 75 families
  - Approximately 135 families in Standard Housing
  - Castlepark and Lynch's Lane accommodating 56 families
  - Emergency facilities of varying basic standard for approximately 46 families

## Housing and Social Development SPC

During 2006, the Housing and Social Development SPC considered the following issues:

- Scheme of Letting Priorities
- Affordable Housing Initiative
- Anti-Social Behaviour Action Plan
- Homelessness
- Rental Accommodation Scheme
- Tenancy Agreement Review
- Social & Affordable Units under Part V
- Integration Issues/Anti-Racism Research
- Draft Homeless Action Plan 2007-2010
- Mid-Term Review of Social & Affordable Housing Action Plan 2004-2008
- Anti-Social Behaviour Study Trip



Mayfield





## Planning

The Planning Department plays a pivotal role in the physical, economic and social development of South County Dublin. Together with its traditional roles of Development Plan preparation, Development Management and Planning Enforcement, the Department is now pro actively involved in the physical development of the County, implementing the Adamstown SDZ Planning Scheme, resolving issues of Urban Design and Conservation, the realisation of the objectives of Integrated Area Plans, the development of Local Area Plans and major project development and management.

### Development Plan

The Development Plan provides the strategic framework and policy context within which the local authority's planning decisions are made. The South Dublin County Council Development Plan 2004-2010 is now being implemented and a number of Local Area Plans/Master plans/Studies are in course of preparation to facilitate achievement of objectives. Two Variations to the Development Plan were made in 2006:

**Variation 1** was made on 9th January 2006 and inserted Specific Local Objective 56 as follows:

"It is an objective of the Council to provide at the earliest possible date, a new link road between the Peamount Road and Aylmer Road to facilitate the development of zoned industrial lands and to divert through traffic away from Newcastle Village Centre".

**Variation 2** was made on 13th November 2006, and provided as follows:

That the zoning of lands on Fortunestown Lane/Garters Lane, Saggart be amended from Zoning Objective 'GB' (To preserve a 'Green Belt' between development areas) to Zoning Objective 'A1' (To provide for new Residential Communities in accordance with approved Area Plans) and to amend the Index Map and Maps 3 and 4 of the County Development Plan 2004-2010 accordingly.

**Variation 3** At its meeting of 25th September 2006, the Tallaght Area Committee, recommended the initiation of the Variation Procedure in relation to a proposed change to the zoning of lands located at the junction of the Cheeverstown Road and Fortunestown Way from 'F' - 'To provide for Open Space and Recreational Amenity' to 'A' - 'To protect and/or improve residential amenity'.

This proposed variation will come before the Council in 2007.

### Adamstown Strategic Development Zone (SDZ)

Development in the Adamstown Strategic Development Zone is progressing well. The Adamstown Link Road, rail station, primary schools, first crèche, eastern section of realigned Tandy's Lane & provision of signals at R120 junction, and some key internal strategic roads are under construction. 1279 residential units have been approved. 804 are under construction, 360 have been completed, and 140 are occupied. More information is available on the website at [www.adamstown.ie](http://www.adamstown.ie)

### Balgaddy/Clonburris Strategic Development Zone

The Balgaddy-Clonburris area is one of the most significant areas zoned for development within South Dublin County Council. With the Grand Canal, the Kildare railway and a number of major roads bisecting the site, and the proposed orbital Metro system likely to arrive at a later stage, the area offers unparalleled opportunities for the development of a highly sustainable new community that capitalises on the excellent public transport links. Approximately two-thirds of the Balgaddy-Clonburris area was designated as a Strategic Development Zone by the Government in July 2006. A Draft Planning Scheme for this part of the area and a Draft Local Area Plan for the remainder of the area has been prepared. It is intended to complete the consultation process by the end of 2007.





## Integrated Area Plans (IAPs)/Urban Renewal Scheme 1999

In 1999 the Council, in partnership with a number of local development groups, produced Integrated Area Plans (IAPs) for both Tallaght and Clondalkin. Both plans were produced in the context of addressing the physical, economic, social and environmental regeneration of the town centres and in the adjoining disadvantaged residential areas.

South Dublin County Council's Integrated Area Plans in Tallaght and Clondalkin have to date accomplished the following:

- Over €0.7 billion worth of development projects are either under construction or completed in the designated areas,
- The IAPs have provided the mechanism to deliver the agreed vision of the town centre areas i.e. new streets, people intensive uses, new public realm and a strong residential presence in the town centres,
- The Urban Renewal Scheme will generate over €15million that will be expended in the disadvantaged neighbourhoods on Community Infrastructure and Community Projects,
- The process has engendered strong links between site developers and the Local
- Employment Service Network

## Tallaght Town Centre Master plan

The Tallaght Town Centre Local Area Plan was adopted by the members of the Council at the meeting of 9th October 2006.

The Plan will guide the future development of Tallaght Town and provide for the development of new streets and civic spaces and a range of people intensive uses appropriate to a town centre, (including retail, commercial, residential, recreational, community and cultural activities) based on high quality urban design.

A dedicated Tallaght Information Office will be located in one of the units nearing completion in the building adjoining the Luas terminus and will open directly onto the public street. It is envisaged that a range of information on the City of Tallaght will be available in this Information Office including the Local Area Plan, the Development Plan, IAP Urban Renewal information and the Master plan Maps. Information on South Dublin County Council projects such as the ZIP Project, the new LUAS Pocket Park and the new Cookstown Park will also be available. A range of the major private projects will also be displayed including the DEZ, Keenbury, Shelbourne and Phase 3 of The Square developments as well as the plans of the evolving property consortia around Cuisine de France, Cookstown, the Garda Station etc. A computer 3D Model of Tallaght will be a key feature of the Information Office.

## Conservation

South Dublin County Council's Record of Protected Structures contains 542 Protected Structures, 105 of which are public authority owned. The Conservation Grants Scheme is funded by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and administered by the Council's Conservation Section. The Grants Scheme assists the owners/occupiers of Protected Structures to undertake necessary works to secure their conservation. Nine Conservation Grants totalling €165,500 were issued by this Council in the year 2006, to assist owners/occupiers in its administrative area to undertake such works.

## Planning Applications

In 2006 the Council received 1920 valid planning applications. This represented an increase of 15% on 2005. There were 2237 decisions made in relation to planning applications during 2006, with 1434 grants of permission, 367 refusals and the remaining 436 applications either being withdrawn, declared withdrawn or resulting in requests for further information or clarification



of further information. There were 133 invalid applications received in 2006 and a further 53 applications deemed invalid due to the Site Notice not being in accordance with regulatory requirements. There were 388 applications for Fire Safety Certificates received in 2006. The Planning Department received the award for Best Planning Service in 2006 at the Excellence in Local Government Awards presented by Chambers Ireland.

### **Enforcement**

A total of 473 new enforcement files were opened in 2006. The number of warning letters issued in 2006 totalled 549 and the number of enforcement notices issued totalled 205. District Court proceedings were initiated in twenty nine cases and Circuit Court proceedings were initiated in five cases. Three Circuit Court Orders were secured during the year. Twenty three cases were resolved following the issuing of District Court proceedings. Fifty seven were resolved without the necessity to apply to the Courts.

### **Development Contributions**

The Development Contribution Scheme, as required under Section 48 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, was adopted by the Council on 8th December 2003.

An amount of €29,598,408 was received during 2006 in respect of permissions granted from 1st January 2004, the date of the implementation of the Scheme. A further amount of €12,095,644 was received during 2006 in respect of permissions granted prior to the 1st January 2004, the date of the implementation of the Development Contribution Scheme.

Planning and Economic Development SPC  
During 2006, two sub-committees of the SPC were established to investigate planning and development policies to ameliorate anti-social behaviour in existing and future developments in the County and to assess planning and

development issues related to the opening of cul-de-sacs. The final reports of the sub-committees are expected by May 2007. Throughout 2006, members of the committee have been informed of developments in relation to many Planning issues, including the Balgaddy SDZ, Adamstown SDZ, Liffey Valley Local Area Plan and developments at Grange Castle.



Adamstown SDZ



## Roads Traffic and Transportation

Throughout the year 2006 the Roads Traffic and Transportation Department continued with the work of design and construction of new roads. Extensive work in the maintenance area was carried out on existing roads, footpaths, bridges, public lighting and within Industrial Estates. Roads Forward Planning dealt with the impact of development on the existing infrastructure and the future infrastructure requirements. In the area of Traffic Management many new initiatives were undertaken in maximising the potential of technology, in conjunction with the delivery of the Dublin Transportation Office strategy 'A Programme for Change'. The Department continued to play an important role in Road Safety, through the provision of the School Warden service, the support for National campaigns and the commencement of the introduction of safety measures at schools.

### Roads at Design Stage

#### National Roads

The National Roads Authority provided the funding for the following schemes at design stage in 2006:

N4 Third lane from - M50 to Kildare boundary - plus separated interchange at Newcastle Road. Tender consultation meeting complete and work to begin in 2007.

Newland Cross interchange up grade - Review of scheme underway

#### Non-National Roads

Funded through a combination of Department of the Environment Heritage & Local Government grant funding and the Councils own resources.

- **Knocklyon Road Extension** - Compulsory Purchase Order published November 2006 oral hearing to be held in early 2007.
- **Nangor Road Upgrade** - Compulsory Purchase Order confirmed August 2006
- **City West to Belgard Road** - Part VIII completed 2006. Land acquisition on going.

### Roads Under Construction

#### National Roads

Construction on the following funded by the National Roads Authority.

- **N7 to Kildare Co boundary** - Works completed 2006.
- **M50 upgrade to three lanes from N4 to Ballymount incorporating the upgrade of 3 junctions** - Works started in 2006 with target completion date of 2008.

Construction progressed on the following schemes, which were funded through a combination of Department of the Environment & Local Government grant funding and the Councils own resources.

#### Non-National Roads

##### • Outer Ring Road:

- Phase 2 Adamstown to N4 - under construction Adamstown to Fonthill link Road opened October 2006.
- Phase 3 - N7 to N81 - Works started in 2006.

- **Green Route Final Phase** - Construction commenced in 2006.

### Road Maintenance

#### National Roads

The National Roads Authority provided finance for the maintenance of National Primary & National Secondary Roads as follows:

- €531,856 for National Primaries N4, N7
- €450,000 for Public Lighting Contribution
- €146,727 for National Secondary Roads, N81, N82

#### Non National Roads

The Council received an allocation of €4,541,000 from the Department of the Environment and





Local Government for road maintenance works. Under the Restoration Improvement Programme, the following roads were repaired during 2006.

- Templeville Road
- Aghfarrell Road
- Belgard Road Extension
- Peamount Road
- Grange Road
- Whitehall Road
- Esker Lane South
- Aylmer Road
- Ninth Lock Road
- St Peter's Road
- Kimmage Road West
- Nangor Road

Works were also carried out under the Discretionary Maintenance, Restoration Maintenance and Discretionary Improvement schemes.

During the year the following works were carried out:

Category	No. of Schemes
Restoration Maintenance	25
Discretionary Improvement	21
New Footpaths	11
Footpath Repairs	31
Discretionary Maintenance	4

- Abnormal Load Permits 2006
  - 347 permits issued
- Lowering of Footpaths 2006
  - 201 applications
- Road Works Control
  - ROADMAP online application system
  - 3,624 online applications
  - 73 Companies online

### Public Lighting

The Public Lighting Section deals with the maintenance, upgrading and improvement of its existing network of 29,500 columns.

### Traffic Management

The Traffic & Transportation Section deals with a wide range of traffic management and control measures. With the significant increase in traffic flows, the section's work has adapted and expanded to manage transport in the county for the benefit of all road users.

The objectives of the section include:

- Providing priority for public transport and other selected vehicles;
- Enhancing facilities for pedestrians and cyclists;
- Managing parking; and
- Managing demand and congestion.

The achievement of these objectives is made possible through the implementation of the Dublin Transportation Office (DTO) Strategy within the county.

In 2006, Funding of €6.4 million was received from the Dublin Transportation Office. This grant was supplemented by a contribution for many projects from the Council's own funds.

### Traffic Management Systems

- CCTV monitoring of junctions - 57 Locations
- DUSC - Dial up Strategic Control - 36 Locations
- MOVA - (Microprocessor Optimised Vehicle Actuated) - N4/Newcastle
- MOVA Proposed Locations - 6
- ANPR Pilot Project - 6 Locations Completed and Operational
- Automatic Traffic Counters 50
- ATC's on Automatic Download 30
- Mobility Management Plan - Completed
- Link to Dublin City Council SCATS cameras operational







## Countywide Pay and Display Parking

Pay and Display Parking is operational in Lucan Village and was extended to include Rathfarnham at the end of 2006. The expansion of the scheme to include Saggart, Rathcoole, Palmerstown and Clondalkin will continue in 2007.

### • Low Cost Safety Measures

- 7 schemes implemented under Department of Environment Heritage and Local Government Grant Funding
- 4 schemes implemented under NRA Grant Funding

## Road Safety

School Warden service were provided at 102 locations throughout the County providing safe crossing facilities for children on routes to and from schools. In addition the Road Safety Officer arranges a number of training courses for motor cyclists. A programme to review safety measures at all schools was commenced.

## School Safety

Following an initial examination of the 130 schools in the County Area the three Area Committees selected and approved two schools or group of schools in their areas as pilot schemes. (see details below)

### Lucan\Clondalkin Area

- Scoil Mhuire, St. Josephs, St Marys & St Andrews(Lucan cluster)
- Scoil Bride, Scoil Ide, Scoil Aine, Scoil Mhuire & St Josephs(Clondalkin cluster)

### Terenure\Rathfarnham Area

- Scoil an Spiorad Naomh (Ballyboden)
- Bishop Galvin & Bishop Shanahan National Schools (Templeogue)

### Tallaght Area

- Holy Rosary National School & Firhouse Community College (Firhouse/Ballycragh)
- Cnoc Mhuire Senior & Junior and Scoil Chaitlin Maude (Knockroe)

The cluster of schools in Lucan was selected to be progressed first and work began in late 2006 with a Special Speed Limit Bye Law being implemented in March 2007. It is envisaged that the Lucan Cluster works will be completed in April 2007 with the other areas having the works completed prior to the end of 2007.

## Forward Planning/Building Control/Traffic Calming

This section is responsible for the assessment of Planning Applications from a Roads perspective and the preparation of technical reports.

Listed below are some relevant statistics from the section:

Estates taken in charge	11
Sites monitored	100
Disabled Person Grant applications	208

### Traffic Calming

- 27 Schemes Completed to date under the Programme
- 4 Schemes under construction
  - Ballyowen Lane, Lucan
  - Butterfield, Rathfarnham
  - Alpine Rise/Belgard Heights, Tallaght
  - Elmbrook Avenue/Esker Lane, Lucan
  - Tymon North, Tallaght
  - Cherryfield/Beechfield, Walkinstown

### Traffic Calming Programme 2007

- Part 8 commenced
  - Palmerstown
  - Seskin View Ave/Drive and New Bawn Park, Tallaght
  - Rowlagh, Clondalkin
  - Earlsfort, Lucan
- Schemes Being Designed
  - Knocklyon
  - Lucan Heights, Lucan
  - Aylesbury/Cushlawn, Tallaght

A further 19 scheme across the five electoral areas will be added to the programme following a selection process by the members in early 2007.



## Architectural Services

2006 was another busy year for the Architectural Services Department in South Dublin County Council. Design and site supervision of a broad range of project work is carried out by Architectural Services Department staff and external consultants.

An in-house team designed and delivered the West Tallaght Pool and Leisure Centre on programme and below its €16 million budget. The building is already popular and in constant use. Work also began on-site for the new Clondalkin Pool by the same team. It is within its €12 million budget and due for completion in July 2007.

The Contract was signed in late 2006 for the new County Arts Building now on site and with a scheduled completion date in early 2008. Chamber House in the Keanbury Development was designed by South Dublin Architects in partnership with O'Mahony Pike Architects. It is a central element of the elegant public plaza now completed and will allow almost a doubling in size of the existing County Library as well as 3,000 sq. metres of high-quality lettable office space.

The 'Zip' project, a high-quality pedestrian/cycle amenity corridor and a major investment in public realm in Tallaght began construction in mid 2006. This period also saw the completion of another public-realm project in the Clondalkin Boardwalk. This commitment to Public Realm improvements also saw the appointment of Suzanne Furlong to the Council as a Public Realm Designer and Co-ordinator.

The Architectural Services Department works in close conjunction with the Planning Department and were involved as closely as ever in Adamstown, which has received European recognition, the Tallaght Town-Centre Plan, and Balgaddy SDZ. The Clondalkin Framework Plan was coordinated by the Architects Department in late 2006.

The Grange framework study was completed in 2006. This will go to tender in 2007 and will help meet our commitments under the Affordable Housing Initiative.

The Housing Programme continued apace with over 100 new houses commencing on-site in 2006. 23 houses and residential caravan bays were completed in 2006 for the Travelling Community with a further 15 units underway in the same period. This is on target with South Dublin County Council's commitment under the Traveller Accommodation Scheme.

Existing Council tenants were not forgotten. 700 houses have been upgraded in terms of insulation and energy usage. All South Dublin Council homes now have central heating installed. 130 have been re-wired and the servicing of 3,000 tenant-installed gas heating systems was also commenced. An extensive window replacement programme commenced in 2006.



Liscarne Centre in Neilstown, Clondalkin



## Corporate Services

South Dublin County Council continues to advance the “modernising agenda and in relation to this the Corporate Services Department interacts and supports all other departments over a wide range of issues”. As a constituent part of ‘Cluster One’ which is the Councils Management Team grouping, the Department has responsibility for Mayor and Members support, Communication, Public Relations, Civic Buildings and Staff Facilities, publication of the Register of Electors, Administration of the Higher Education Grants Scheme along with general administration including purchasing and procurement.

The Management Grouping of Cluster Group one has overall responsibility for the delivery on change processes, improvement in communications, operations and efficiency in the provision of our services.

### Mayors office and Civic Events

At the Annual meeting in June Councillor Éamonn Maloney was elected Mayor and accepted the Chain of Office for a term of one year. The Corporate Services department provides a Secretariat services for the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Strategic Policy Committee Chairs and Members of the Council and all of the Councils Statutory Meetings, Annual Meetings and Special Meetings of the Council. The meetings of the Strategic Policy Committees and Area Committees are also coordinated through Corporate Services and are available on the website. Throughout 2006 work continued to provide access for the public to more and more information through the Councils website [www.southdublin.ie](http://www.southdublin.ie)

During 2006 the Council held different events that individually marked achievement in respect of improvements in our built infrastructure, our Community facilities, our Technological advances and our interaction with our Customers.

### Press and Media Relations

The role of Corporate Services in the area of communications is continually evolving as the first

point of contact for journalists and media. The development and roll out of Pressnet continued.

### Twining

#### Kreis Segeberg, Germany

The Choir from the Lucan Community College visited Bad Segeberg in August to take part in a Youth Seminar there along with other partners from Estonia, Poland and Germany.

#### London Borough of Brent, England

A delegation led by the Mayor paid a two day visit to Brent Borough to see a number of Housing and Community initiatives. This was followed by a visit by the Mayor of Brent to South Dublin in May 2006.

#### Rathcoole village with Ecole Valentin in France

Ongoing exchange visits between Rathcoole and Ecole Valentin have continued and have a high participation level amongst residents of all ages from both communities. In 2006, a youth group from France visited Rathcoole for a programme of cross community interaction for sport, recreational, musical and cultural pursuits across all ages.

### Ethiopian Partnership Project

Over the past 18 months, a partnership with two towns in Ethiopia is developing which involves an intensive, practical programme of development aid and capacity building projects in Ethiopia which is now coming to fruition.

### Quality Customer Care

A dedicated team of staff maintain a high level of first point of contact service to Customers. Using systems to measure performance against targets set, the team are also involved in the roll out of the measurement systems across the organisation, providing tools to all managers to continually enhance the Councils services. In





2006 the Customer Care Centre was highly commended at the Customer Service Awards, run by the Institute of Customer Service in Ireland.

### Register of Electors

Corporate Services Department compiles the Register of Electors annually. The total no. of electors registered on the 2006/2007 Register of Electors was 182,410 and the breakdown of this figure across the five electoral areas is as follows.

Lucan	33,206
Clondalkin	30,898
Tallaght Central	28,703
Tallaght South	36,824
Terenure/Rathfarnham	52,779

### Higher Education Grants

Higher Education Grants are awarded in accordance with the Local Authorities (Higher Education Grants) Acts, 1968 - 1992 and the relevant annual scheme as adopted by the Council. Under the 2006 Higher Education Grants Scheme a total of 517 new applications and 760 renewal applications were processed. A total amount of €3.4 million was paid out in fees and maintenance grants during 2006.

### Freedom of Information

63 Requests were processed and answered in 2005.

### Workplace Partnership

Towards 2016 Ten-Year Framework Social Partnership Agreement 2006-2015, notes a marked progress throughout the local government sector in implementing change and modernisation programmes in areas that include enhanced customer service, the adaptation of

technology and flexible working arrangements. Recognising that Ireland is engaged in a process of enormous change in how it plans to provide public services, the agreement declares that local authorities will have to fundamentally change. It also affirms the belief that local government services are *"only as good as the behaviours, skills and knowledge of the people delivering them"*.

The Handling Significant Change process instigated by the Partnership Committee in 2006, has seen increased dialogue between Senior Union Officials, Senior Management and the Partnership Committee. This process enables each grouping to collectively discuss issues of mutual concern, issues which are identified under the terms 'Modernisation agenda' and 'Fundamental Change'. These meetings will continue through 2007.

Partnership continues to support employee involvement in the change process at local level through various structures which include Departmental Partnership Committees, Depot based committees, Working Groups and Partnership sub-groups. This ensures more effective participation in joint problem solving as required under Towards 2016.

### Internal Audit

During 2006 Internal Audit Unit continued its focus on the introduction of a Risk Management Framework for the organisation. The unit continued to carry out workshops for the staff to assist them in identifying the tools required to risk assess their areas of operations. In addition the unit continued to review the internal controls systems to measure how effective the organisation is protected and to ensure transparency and accountability in all our actions.

### Irish Office

During 2006 South Dublin County Council promoted the Irish Language in South Dublin County in many other ways.



We hosted over 60 events across the County during Seachtain na Gaeilge, which received huge support from the general public.

The Council was presented with the Irish Language Charter by the Language Commissioner, Seán Ó Cuirreáin, which is now hanging in the entrance hall of the County Hall in Tallaght.

Irish classes for the staff and councillors began to promote and support the Irish Language and its use within the Council.

A weekend in the Gaeltacht for people attending Irish classes in Whitechurch Library was organised by this office in conjunction with Whitechurch Library.

A County wide photographic survey was completed to obtain information from the road signs and place names being used across the County, this was the first step in a comprehensive review of all Irish Place Names being used in South Dublin County.

A new process began in the Naming of new developments in SDCC. The name of all new developments is now recorded in both Irish and English in the Managers order. This falls under the remit of the Planning Department which ensures, in consultation with the Irish Officer, that appropriate Irish translations are provided in all cases.

All Major Policy Documents of South Dublin County Council were made available in Irish or both Irish and English i.e. Annual Report 2005, Traveller Accommodation Programme, Customer Care Plan, The Play Policy, Social Inclusion Policy, Anti Social Policy, the Irish Language Scheme, the Arts Policy and South Dublin County Development Board Review 2005 & Implementation Plan 2006-2008, all of which are available at [www.athcliaththeas.ie](http://www.athcliaththeas.ie).

The generic email [Gaeilge@sdblincoco.ie](mailto:Gaeilge@sdblincoco.ie) was established as a direct link to the Irish Office. A contact list of members of the public, staff and

councillors which would like to be contacted directly in relation to any matters relating to Irish and SDCC was developed from this address, and is being updated regularly.



Customer Care Centre, County Hall



## Human Resources

The Human Resources Department manages a wide range of functions in relation to human resource management for our existing staff and with regard to the ongoing staffing needs of the organisation. The department is continually engaged in the recruitment and selection process for a wide range of grades and roles within the organisation ranging from general service grades, clerical/administrative grades to professional/technical grades.

An important aspect of the work of the department has been its proactive approach to Partnership in the Workplace in line with the LANPAG policy 'Handling Significant Change Through Partnership'. Throughout 2006 many modernisation initiatives were successfully delivered through the Partnership process which depends upon the work of 14 local departmental partnership groups. The partnership approach allows us to continue to work closely with the Trade Unions and staff to ensure greater understanding and participation in creating organisational efficiencies and enhanced customer service delivery. 7 working groups were established in 2006 to examine the following:

- GPS System in council fleet
- Organisational HR Strategy
- Policy on purchase of Plant and Machinery
- Career Paths of General Operatives
- Policy on sustainable environment
- Completion of physical accommodation examination
- Delivery of communications policy

Retention of staff, workforce planning, staff welfare, employee relations, training and development and management of benefit and entitlement schemes are also key activities of the department.

The Performance Management Development System was rolled out to the entire organisation

during 2006. Its implementation has provided individuals with greater role clarity and links individual duties from Team Development Plans to corporate goals and objectives.

### Efficiency, Research and Development Unit

The ERD Unit was set up at the start of 2005 and through 2006 continued to achieve results for the department. The unit's role is to examine all processes and systems within the HR Department ensuring the department runs efficiently and effectively and that best practice in H.R. management prevails.

In 2006 the unit co-ordinated the implementation of modernising measures relevant to the Sustaining Progress National Agreement and the new National Pay Agreement Towards 2016:

- Draft HR Strategy
- Implementation and publishing of HR Annual Operational Plan
- Introduction of I docs, document management system to HR
- Sourcing of integrated HR system

The ERD Unit ensures communication is maintained through the continued maintenance and updating of the HR website. For staff on extended leave, we have introduced the SMS facility to keep staff informed of upcoming promotions.

### Recruitment Unit

2006 was an exceptionally busy year for the recruitment unit. The Traveller Training & Work Programmes Initiative was continued. The Council, in recognising the marginalisation of the traveller and having regard to the need to build a relationship of trust and credibility, undertook the initiative to provide a relevant skilled training





programme supplemented with work experience and the prospect of full-time employment at the end of the programme. In addition to our existing compliment of staff from the travelling community, 9 students worked with us for the summer and 5 have been employed under a new initiative which is addressing the problem of graffiti throughout the County.

**Recruitment Performance Indicators 2006**

Staff Turnover	5%
Number of new staff	151
Interview Competitions advertised	102
SDCC promotional appointments	150
Number of applications received	2018
Number attended for interview	1106

**Training and Development Unit**

The Council's Training & Development Unit continued during 2006 to organise training for all staff within the Council. In this regard, I.T., Health & Safety, Specialist and Development courses were held for staff throughout the year.

In order to assist in the achievement of ICT & Cluster 1 objectives, the Training Unit liaise regularly with external companies on best practice and new techniques.

With the introduction of PMDS and the completion of PDPs by all members of staff, delivery of agreed PDP training commenced in 2006. The benefits of this tailored training will be evaluated on an ongoing basis.

The unit piloted the first module of the supervisory management training programme developed for grades 5/6 and analogous. Full Roll-out will be undertaken in 2007.

In recognition of the changing demographics within the Council's administrative area, the unit also continued with a series of courses in Effective

Communication with Non Native Speakers of English as well as courses on Disability Awareness.

The Return to Learning courses continued during 2006. I.T. classes were given by I.T. staff members after hours in SDCC H.Q.

**Training & Development Performance Indicators 2006**

% of Payroll spent on training	4.42%
Numbers of Scheme of Assistance	102
Numbers attending in-house training	1219
Numbers attending external training	243

**Employee Relations Unit**

The Employee Relations Unit continue to maintain communication with the relevant trade unions on a regular basis on issues of concern and through the unit the Council is committed to utilising the industrial relations mechanisms available including the Rights Commissioner, the Labour Relations Commission and the Labour Court where necessary.

An extensive Vaccination Programme was again run throughout 2006 for staff on a voluntary basis, 41 staff members availed of vaccinations and 291 staff members availed of the anti-flu vaccination.

**Administration and Policy Unit**

At the end of 2006, the number of staff in SDCC was 1,514

In conjunction with the ERD Unit and the HR Partnership Group, the Administration and Policy Unit continue to identify and develop policies. In 2006 the following policies were in draft stage or developed:

- Policy on the employment of Disabled people (Draft)





## Law

- Diversity Policy
- Communications Policy
- Social Inclusion Policy
- Dress Code
- Mobility Policy (Draft)
- Intercultural Policy (Draft)
- Dignity in the Workplace Policy (Draft)

The Staff Welfare service continues to provide discrete, confidential professional support to staff. Its offices are based in the Library building at County Hall.

### Administration and Policy Unit Statistics 2006

Total Staff Worksharing & Part-time at the end of 2006	159
No of staff who availed of the following Family Friendly Initiatives in 2006:	
Worksharing	64
Term Time	19
Parental Leave	53
Career Breaks	44

### Attendance Management Unit

Since its establishment in 2004 the unit continue to be a central unit for the monitoring and processing of various types of leave, benefits and entitlements for the organisation. The unit provides guidelines on the application of timekeeping and attendance procedures for employees to assist in the communication of a consistent understanding of the Attendance Management Policy.

In 2006, the unit arranged training for staff in implementing an attendance Management Policy.

<b>Attendance Management Unit Statistics 2006</b>	
Level of certified sick leave	3.38%
Level of uncertified sick leave	0.79%

The Law Department continued to provide a full range of legal services to all Departments of the Council varying from routine matters of conveyancing and litigation to the most specialised areas of Local Government Law.

During 2006 the Department saw yet another very busy year with major increases in the numbers of instructions received for the acquisition of lands, the disposal of properties and provision of Social and Affordable housing. Compulsory Purchase Orders and acquisition of lands for both major and minor roads developments also show increased activity over previous years.

2006 also saw a large increase in the area of Litigation with increased activities in the area of enforcement pursuant to legislation governing Waste Management, Anti Social Behaviour, Planning, Housing, Liquor, Control of Dogs and Litter Pollution.



County Hall, Tallaght





# Information Technology

The I.T. Department is fully integrated into the Council's management system, not only by being represented on the Management Team, but also being an active participant in the Cluster Group of the Management Team charged with strengthening the organisation of the Council. The Department is divided into teams as follows: Development and Design, Strategic Implementation and Training, Spatial Infrastructure Services, Infrastructural Services and Special Projects.

On the advice of the Local Government Computer Services Board, SQL Server has been adopted as the relational database of choice and where possible has been introduced into Council Systems. However, Open Source software such as Linux and Apache were used during the year for development work.

In the category 'The Best Local Irish eGovernment' of the Irish eGovernment Awards 2006 South Dublin was short listed for our innovative delivery of Customer Care through implementation of eGovernment practice.

The Help Desk dealt with a total of 10,429 service calls during the year.

## Corporate Plan Review IT Department

The following are the other key achievements in the year.

### 1. Network

- Forty printers and one hundred and twenty-eight PCs purchased and installed.
- Eighty-four Laptops purchased and set up.
- The Help Desk Staff were winners of Partnership Recognition of Excellence Award
- Wireless Network Installed in all Meeting and Training Rooms
- Firmware updated on all HP Network Switches

- Print Management Project Initiated
- Automated Desktop OS Patching Solution Rolled Out
- WIFI live in All Branch Libraries
- Partnership Report on Depot Facilities Implemented
- New Public Internet Access Infrastructure Implemented in All Branch Libraries
- Implemented new Remote PC Access Software
- Major Upgrades to Power Supply, Air Conditioning and UPS in Computer Room
- E-working Pilot Project commenced
- Implementation of the On-Line facility of Help Desk System
- Security and Infrastructure Audits/Briefings Completed
- Intrusion Prevention System Piloted
- Corporate Edition of Norton Anti-Virus 10.0 deployed organization wide (Anti-Spyware)
- New Password Security Policy Implemented

### 2. Web Development

- Housing Waiting Lists accessible by pin no.
- Environment, Economic Development, Human Resources, Community, IT, Law and Property Path Web Sites developed and implemented.
- CMAS(Council Minutes and Agenda System) redesigned and made available
- on the web site. It's use was also extended to the SPCs (Strategic Policy Committees)
- New Media site launched
- RSS feeds now available.





- Electoral Register System amended to facilitate new requirements.
- Community Connect System developed whereby customers can subscribe for Email or SMS alerts for different areas of Council activity

**3. Systems**

- SMS facility for Parks re playing pitches
- Various on-line surveys, internal and external, were developed and conducted.
- A detailed specification document for Waste Management Integration has been prepared
- Connect Spatial (LocalView) went live in beta mode.
- Mapflow orthophotography and OSi orthophotography were updated on our GIS applications.
- The last of our unix applications were moved to a Windows environment.
- IT staff continued to give support, maintain and enhance the existing systems i.e. Payroll, Agresso Financial System, Rates, Housing Rents Accounting, Housing Rents Assessment, Libraries, Higher Education Grants, Customer Care, e-Mail and i-Docs.

**[www.southdublin.ie/connect](http://www.southdublin.ie/connect)**

Connect is a new project started in 2006 by South Dublin County Council that is working to a future where everyone in South Dublin County uses the internet as an everyday tool to improve their quality of life by using technology in innovative ways to achieve goals, accessing relevant information and developing local content on the world wide web. Our new website [www.southdublin.ie/connect](http://www.southdublin.ie/connect) was launched in November 2006. There are links to this site from South Dublin County Council’s website, intranet, membersnet, pressnet, South Dublin Libraries website. The Connect site also hosts over 100

websites of Community and Voluntary Groups in South Dublin County, creating the potential for it to develop as a portal site for the county. As well as the website, Connect includes a range of complementary projects and strategies that will be implemented in South Dublin County. The combined impact of these strategies working together will achieve the vision. The projects developed in 2006 are:

**Connect Me presents an extensive range of local information using an online interactive mapping system, creating a place where people can find accurate information easily and quickly about their community**

Connect Me in 2006:

- Comprehensive database of all businesses and community organisations (6,000) and residential dwellings in the County represented on the Geographic Information System (GIS) to enable ‘Find My Nearest’ information searches
- This data is updated with all changes on a 3 monthly basis and the ‘Report A Fault’ Facility of public services information has been linked into South Dublin County Council’s Customer Care System to ensure timely response
- A Customer Focus Review was carried out on the design and usability of Connect Me

**Connect Web supports all community groups in South Dublin County to create their own internet content that will facilitate improved information management and develop new methods of collective engagement**

Connect Web in 2006:

- Web Training delivered and ongoing individual support provided to over 100 Community Groups to resource groups to create and maintain their own high quality websites
- Beech Park Football Club, Lucan won the 2006 Best Connect Website Award, with a Prize Fund of €2,000, at the South Dublin Community Awards





- An ongoing programme of Website Training has been delivered across the county at times convenient to the participants (morning/afternoon/evening)
- The Training Programme has been designed to be more user friendly through regular review and feedback
- There was also significant development of the South Dublin County Tourism website, [www.southdublintourism.ie](http://www.southdublintourism.ie) that greatly enhanced its appearance, usability and functionality

**Connect School in St Aidan’s Community School, Brookfield, Tallaght, is developing student centred technology through an innovative learning culture in order to improve school attendance, participation in class and educational outcomes for the students**

Connect School in 2006:

- Every Teacher, Special Needs Assistant, and other Resource Teachers received their Laptops in May
- A Peer Learning Programme was developed that enabled the teachers to teach each other in the necessary ICT skills required to integrate the use of technology in the classroom and develop interactive curriculum content
- A full-time ICT Co-ordinator was employed to implement and provide ongoing support to the delivery of the project in the school
- The Virtual Learning Environment was created and content developed
- The Project Steering Group met four times in 2006 to co-ordinate the inter-agency approach in the delivery of the project. Membership of this group includes the Co Manager of SDCC, the Principal, Vice-principal and Chair of the Board of Management of the School, the Manager of the Regional office of the Department of Education, the Head of

Computing of the Institute of Technology, Tallaght, The National Teaching Skills Co-ordinator of the National Centre for Technology in Education, and the ICT Advisor of the Dublin West Education Centre.

**Connect Centre is working to create a network of Community Technology Centres (Connect Centres) where people can access and learn how to use technology in their own community.**

Connect Centre in 2006:

- The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government have agreed to part fund the planned extension of Jobstown Community Centre to include the creation of a digital learning centre and youth drop-in centre
- The IT and Community Services Departments are working together to identify priority Community Centres across the county for technology upgrades into Connect Centres

**Promotional Activities**

- Time to Connect was a fortnight of events held in November demonstrating, using and discussing Technology in our lives attended by over 300 people at 48 talks and workshops across the county and an exhibition of the work of the community groups with websites on Connect Web
- Over 50 workshops in local Community Groups, the County Development Board and to Council Staff & Councillors
- Articles and advertising in several local media including South Dublin County Today Newsletter Summer & Winter editions, City Channel Feature Programme, Tallaght FM, The Echo, Metro Eireann, The Gazette
- Presentations and/or Exhibition Stands at several Conferences, including Excellence in Local Government; Tallaght Partnership Forum; IPA Leadership Course; Adult Learning Exhibition





## Finance

The Finance Department has responsibility for the short and long term financing of the Council's operations. This includes the monitoring and control of income and expenditure, arranging for borrowing and leasing requirements and the investment of funds.

### Services Provided

- Financial Control & Treasury Management
- Preparation of Annual Budget
- Preparation of Annual Financial Statement
- Preparation of Three Year Capital Programme
- Payroll and Pension Administration
- Commercial Rates Collection
- Collection of Non-Domestic Water Charges
- Payment of Accounts
- Insurance and Claims Administration
- Payments Receipting Office

### European Communities

(Late Payment in Commercial transactions) Regulations 2002 EU Regulations governing late payment of commercial transactions were enforced with effect from 7 August 2002. These regulations partially replace, the Prompt Payment of Accounts Act 1997, and provide that interest, if greater than €5, be paid where an invoice remains unpaid for more than 30 days. The total amount of interest paid in 2006 was €18,004.51

The Finance Department Operational Plan deals with the functions of the department under three broad headings:

- Financial Management & Accounting
- Expenditure Management
- Income, Debtors and Cash

### Financial Management & Accounting

The Department's aim under Financial Management & Accounting is "the development and implementation of financial management and accounting systems and practices to support the best management of Council resources". In this context the Finance Department Operational Plan

outlined actions to be taken in 2006 to advance these objectives as follows:

- To continue the development of the Agresso Financial Management Information System.
- The early production of the 2005 Annual Financial Statement in the revised format as specified by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and in accordance with Local Authority Accounting in Ireland, Code of Practice and Accounting Regulations.
- Timely disclosure to the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government of financial and non-financial data as required for the Needs & Resources Model which is employed by the Minister during the allocation of the Local Government Fund and the provision of financial and other data, as requested, to maximise the opportunities for South Dublin County Council during the allocation of other state funds.
- To prepare the Annual Budget 2007 in accordance with the Local Government Act 2001 and the Local Government (Financial Procedures and Audit) Regulations 2002.

### Annual Financial Statements

The Annual Financial Statement 2005 was prepared and presented in a Web enabled format to the Members prior to submission to the Department of the Environment, Heritage, and Local Government for audit. The audit of the 2005 Annual Financial Statement commenced in late 2006.

### Needs and Resources

The 2005 Needs and Resources Template was completed and submitted to the Department of the Environment, Heritage, and Local Government within the specified timescale.

### Annual Budget

The Annual Budget for 2007 was prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act, 2001, and the Local





Government (Financial Procedures and Audit) Regulations 2002, and was adopted by the Council on 7th December 2006.

### **Agresso**

The most recent modules implemented include Web Enabled Agresso, the Fixed Asset Register, Invoice Manager & Rates Income. Other projects during 2006 include the implementation of a Low Value Purchase Card scheme in tandem with the Agresso Purchase to Pay module, the development and testing of Business to Business features in Agresso, the implementation of improved software to monitor Prompt Payments legislation, the testing of new national Cash Office Receipting software and localisation and testing of Agresso Housing Rents.

### **Agresso Fixed Assets Register**

The Fixed Asset Register includes details of constructed, gifted and purchased assets and is maintained in the Finance Department.

### **Expenditure Management**

The main focus of Expenditure Management is to account for expenditure and ensure that effective financial controls are in place for Insurance and Claims Management, Payroll and Accounts Payable.

### **Insurances**

The Insurance Section manages public and employer liability claims and Motor, Property, Plant and Machinery insurance policies.

### **Payroll**

The Payroll Section is responsible for the payment of salaries, wages, temporary salaries and pensions to approximately 2,000 staff and pensioners. Travel expenses and overtime claims are also processed by this Section. During 2006 the development and improvement of electronic data transfer systems continued. The promotion of the Paypath facility has resulted in 100% of salaried and 78% of non-salaried staff accepting payment via Paypath. The electronic timesheet return system is currently being tested and it is proposed to have this system operational by the end of 2007.

### **Accounts Payable**

Accounts Payable are responsible for making payments to the Council's trade creditors and ensuring accurate records of these transactions are retained for audit. They process between 800 - 900 invoices per week. This section is also responsible for implementing and accounting for relevant tax regulations such as Professional Services With-holding Tax, VAT, Relevant Contracts Tax, Tax Clearance Certificates and for ensuring C2 details are accurate.

### **Income, Debtors & Cash**

Income related objectives for Finance include the effective management and maximisation of income, in particular the billing and debtor management of Commercial Rates and Non-Domestic Water Charges.

### **Rates**

The main actions taken under this heading were to extend the County Valuation base by making maximum use of available information such as Commencement Notices, Water Connection Payments and Fire Certificates, and to improve collection procedures generally. The County Valuation at 31st December 2006 (effective from 1st January 2007) was €1,659,700, and represented a 3.18% increase on 31st December 2005. The total rate collection for 2006 was €105,664,660. The percentage of rates collected from the total warrant for 2006 was 94% and represented a 2.38% increase on the collection for 2005.

A national project to revalue all property in Ireland has commenced, the first phase constitutes the revaluation of all commercial and industrial properties in the South Dublin County Council local authority area. It is expected that this process will be completed during 2007 resulting in an updated basis for rating valuations for all commercial properties in South Dublin.

### **Water Charges**

Actions were specified under this heading to enable the collection of Non-Domestic Water Charges & Wastewater Charges through all effective means including disconnection of supply.





The amount collected in 2006 was €7,328,551 which is an increase of 9.5% on 2005.

The Water Metering Project which involves replacing existing meters with AMR meters which will facilitate automatic readings, is being carried out by contractors on behalf of all of the Dublin Local Authorities. The installation of new meters will commence in South Dublin County Council's area in early 2007 and it is anticipated that the project will be completed in 2008.

### **Treasury Management**

Actions are taken on an ongoing basis to maximise and efficiently manage cash-flow. These actions include the application of appropriate software systems to support decision making.

### **Cash Receipting Office**

The Council's Cash Offices are responsible for receipting monies received by the Council. In addition to accepting the traditional payment methods (cash, cheque, debit card, credit card and Direct Debit), an Internet Payment Facility is available for the purchase of bin tags. New software which will enhance the operation of the cash offices was tested during the year and will be operational in 2007.



Cash Office at the County Hall





## South Dublin County Council Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2006

	<b>2006</b> <b>€'000</b>	<b>2005</b> <b>€'000</b>
Fixed Assets & Work in Progress	3,488,716	3,361,063
Long Term Debtors	184,630	181,828
Net Current Assets	110,930	114,062
Long Term Creditors	(203,735)	(185,176)
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>3,580,541</b>	<b>3,471,777</b>
<b>Financed by:</b>		
Work in Progress & Capitalisation Account	3,462,801	3,365,750
Revenue Reserve - Specific	16,628	16,628
Revenue Reserve - General	16,067	11,399
Other Balances	85,045	78,000
	<b>3,580,541</b>	<b>3,471,777</b>



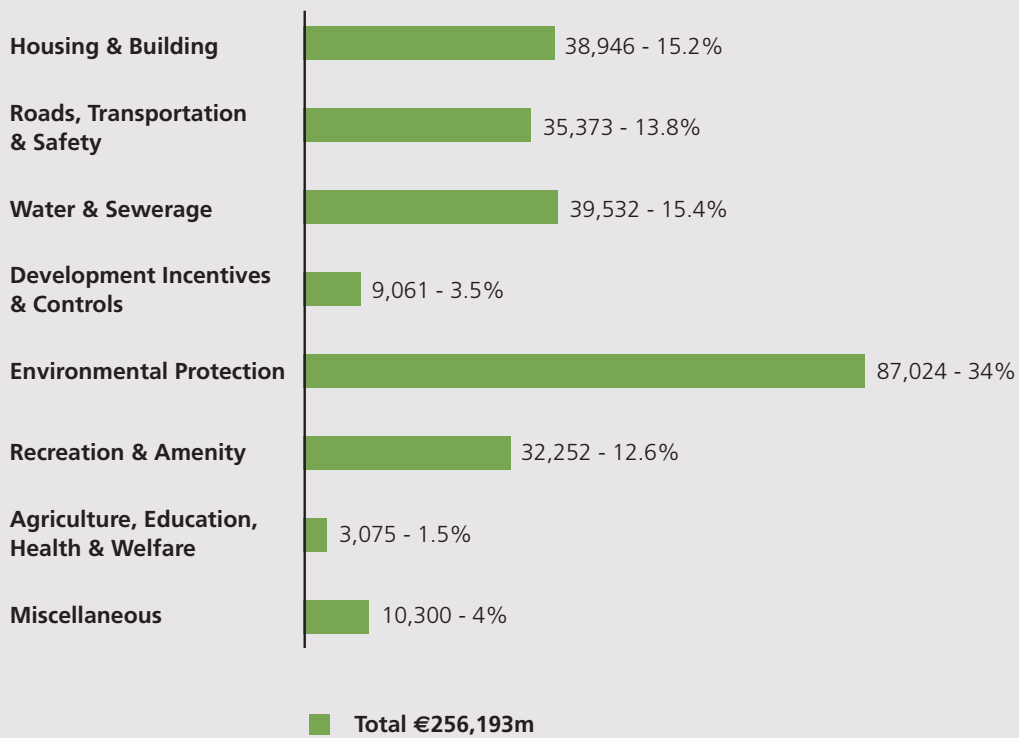
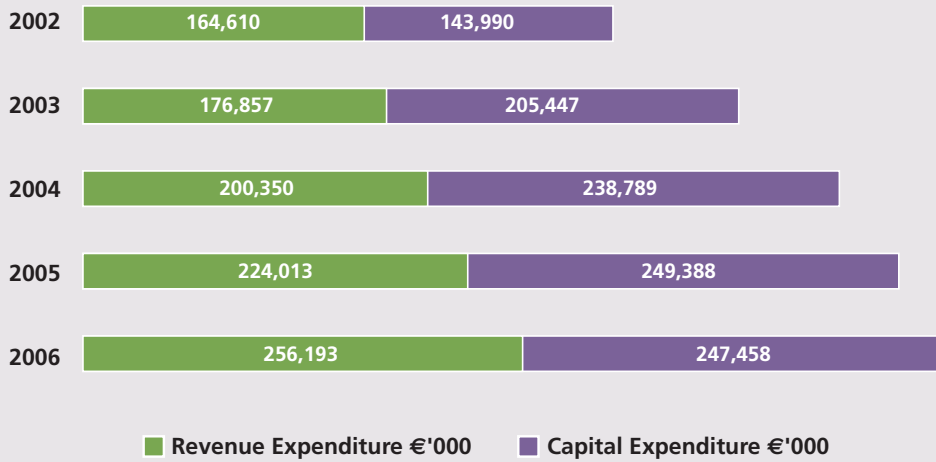


**South Dublin County Council  
Income and expenditure account statement for year ending 31 December 2006**

	<b>Gross Expenditure</b>	<b>Income</b>	<b>Net Cost</b>
	<b>2006 €'000</b>	<b>2006 €'000</b>	<b>2006 €'000</b>
House & Building	35,392	31,065	(4,327)
Roads, Transportation & Safety	34,919	8,229	(26,690)
Water & Sewerage	36,119	11,820	(24,299)
Development Incentives & Controls	9,045	3,447	(5,598)
Environmental Protection	82,024	50,987	(31,037)
Recreation & Amenity	31,263	5,416	(25,847)
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	3,697	3,616	(81)
Miscellaneous	8,396	5,011	(3,385)
<b>Total Expenditure/Income</b>	<b>240,855</b>	<b>119,591</b>	
<b>Net cost of programmes to be funded from Rates &amp; Local Government Fund</b>			(121,264)
Rates Income			106,134
Local Government Fund - Grant Income			24,639
<b>Net Transfers to/from Reserves</b>			(4,841)
<b>Surplus for Year</b>			4,668
<b>General Reserve @ 1st January 2005</b>			11,399
<b>General Reserve @ 31st December 2005</b>			<b>16,067</b>







Note: These figures are inclusive of transfers to/from reserves

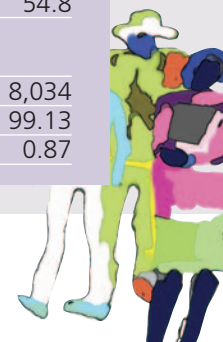


## National Services Indicators

Description	2004	2005	Dec-06
<b>Arts Grants</b>			<b>473,210</b>
Total value of Arts Grants paid per 1000 population	1797.4	1823.34	
Number of Arts Grants paid	52	53	57
<b>Certified and Uncertified Sick Leave</b>			
% of Working days lost to sickness absence through certified leave	2.24	2.8	3.38
% of Working days lost to sickness absence through uncertified leave	0.82	0.91	0.79
<b>Expenditure on Training and Development</b>			
Expenditure on Training and Development as a percentage of total payroll costs	4.05	4.67	4.42
<b>Community Participation and Co-operation</b>			
% of local schools involved in the local Youth Council / Comhairle na n-Og scheme	20	19.35	32
<b>Compliance of Drinking Water with Statutory Requirements</b>			
% of Public Schemes in compliance	99.3	97.6	
% of Private Schemes in compliance	97.4	N/A	N/A
<b>Number of Fire Safety Certificates Processed</b>			
Total number of fire certification applications received	387	340	388
Fire Applications processed	429	273	354
<b>Percentage of Households provided with Segregated Waste Collection</b>			
% of households provided with segregated waste collection	97	97	97
<b>Household waste collected which is sent for recycling</b>			
Tonnage		15,308	15,120
% of household waste collected	16.9	18.65	20.3
<b>Household waste collected which is sent to landfill</b>			
Tonnage		66,794	59,438
% of Household Waste collected	83.1	81.35	79.7
<b>Recycling Facilities: Glass</b>			
Number of Bring Sites	38	39	43
Number of Civic amenity Sites	1	1	1
Total Number of Facilities	39	40	44
Number of locations per 5000 of population	0.8	0.83	
Tonnage recycled per 5000 of population	57.69	72.79	
Tonnage			4197
<b>Recycling Facilities: Cans</b>			
Number of Bring Sites	18	22	23
Number of Civic Amenity Sites	1	1	1
Total Number of Facilities	19	23	24
Number of locations per 5000 of population	0.4	0.48	
Tonnage recycled per 5000 of population	0.79	1.19	
Tonnage			53
<b>Recycling Facilities: Textiles</b>			
Number of Bring Sites	8	8	8
Number of Civic Amenity Sites	1	1	1
Total Number of Facilities	9	9	9

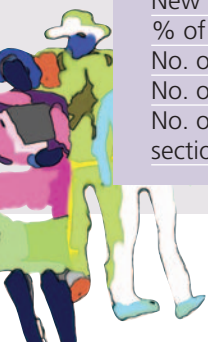


Description	2004	2005	Dec-06
Number of locations per 5000 of population	0.19	0.19	
Tonnage of waste collected for recycling textiles per 5000 of population	5.11	5.15	
Tonnage			239
<b>Recycling Facilities: Batteries</b>			
Number of Bring Sites	30	30	30
Number of Civic Amenity Sites	1	1	1
Total Number of Facilities	31	31	31
Number of locations per 5000 of population	0.65	0.65	
Tonnage recycled per 5000 of population	0.54	0.78	
Tonnage			68
<b>Recycling Facilities: Oil</b>			
Number of Bring Sites	0	0	0
Number of Civic Amenity Sites	1	1	1
Total Number of Facilities	1	1	1
Number of locations per 5000 of population	0.02	0.02	
Tonnage recycled per 5000 of population	0.79	0.72	
Tonnage			36
<b>Recycling Facilities: Other</b>			
Number of Bring Sites	9	10	9
Number of Civic Amenity Sites	1	2	2
Total Number of Facilities	10	12	11
Number of locations per 5000 of population	0.21	0.25	
Tonnage recycled per 5000 of population	104.99	109.23	
			7540
<b>Number of Litter Wardens</b>			
Number of Full Time Litter Wardens	6	6	6
Total number of Part Time Litter Wardens	0	0	0
Number of Litter Wardens (both full and part time) per 5000 population	0.13	0.13	
<b>Enforcement of Litter Laws</b>			
Number of on- the -spot fines	1180	1042	680
Number of prosecution cases taken because of non payment of on- the- spot fines	317	131	89
Number of prosecutions secured	87	46	38
<b>Litter Pollution: Percentage of Areas Polluted</b>			
% of Areas within LA unpolluted	11	16	
% of Areas within LA slightly polluted	36	36	
% of Areas moderately polluted	27	30	
% of Areas significantly polluted	18	14	
% of Areas grossly polluted	8	4	
<b>Number of Cases Subject to Complaints Concerning Environmental Pollution</b>			
Number of Complaints	3900	8732	7811
Cases Investigated	3900	8732	7811
Number of enforcement procedures taken	5378	98	87
<b>Percentage of Schools Participating in Environmental Campaigns</b>			
% of Primary Schools participating in environmental campaigns	46	52	64.9
% of Secondary Schools participating in environmental campaigns	45	44	54.8
<b>Local Authority Housing Stock</b>			
Total number of dwellings in local authority stock	7688	7,950	8,034
Overall % of dwellings that are let	99.52	99.27	99.13
Overall % of dwellings that are empty	0.48	0.73	0.87

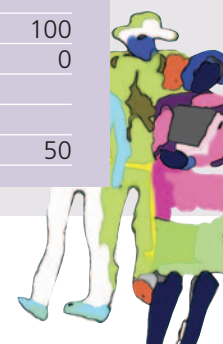




Description	2004	2005	Dec-06
<b>Profile of Empty Dwellings</b>			
% of empty dwellings subject to major refurbishment schemes	34.69	13.36	1.4
% of empty dwellings unavailable for letting	93.75	98	70
% of empty dwellings available for letting	6.25	2	30
<b>Average Time to Re-let Dwellings</b>			
Average time taken to relet dwellings available for letting	1	0.2	0.29
<b>Housing; Percentage of Repairs Completed</b>			
Number of repairs completed as a % of the number of valid repair requests received	96.5	96.1	97.45
<b>Local Authority Housing Services: Time Taken to Deal with Applications</b>			
Average Number of days to inform applicants on shared ownership	20	15.8	11.48
Average Number of days to inform applicants: Housing loans	20	15.8	14.9
Average Number of days to inform applicants: Local Authority Housing	21	28.56	29
<b>Housing Under the Traveller Accommodation Programmes</b>			
Traveller families accommodated as a % of the target set in the local Traveller Accommodation Programme	46.68	87.8	106.8
<b>Library Opening Hours</b>			
Public opening hours	52.1	52.1	48.55
Average number of public opening hours per week for part time libraries (where applicable)	19.5	20	20
<b>Number of Registered Library Users</b>			
Number of Registered members			79,707
Number of registered library members as a % of the local population	32.85	33.01	
Libraries: No of Books/Other Items Issued Per head of Population			
Number of Book issued			809,707
Number of books issues per head of population	3.71	3.59	
Number of other items issued			174,032
Other items issued	0.37	0.6	
Total issues (Books & Others)			983,739
<b>Internet Access to the Public</b>			
% of Libraries that offer internet access to the public	100	100	100
Number of Internet Sessions used			64,181
Number of internet sessions provided per 1000 population	275.48	280.13	
<b>Individual Houses: Planning Determinations</b>			
No. of applications decided	373	335	388
% of complete applications determined within 8 weeks	66.48		
No. of decisions which were decided within 8 weeks	222	298	
Average length of time taken to determine an application where further information is sought(in days)	78.09	76.92	77.07
No. of decisions which required the submission of further information		112	89
No. of decisions where an extension of time was agreed to by the applicant, under Section 34(9) of the Planning and Development Act 2000		1	0
<b>New Housing Developments: Planning Applications Determined</b>			
New Housing Development: No of Applications Decided	88	82	97
% of complete applications determined within 8 weeks	56.8		
No. of decisions which were decided within 8 weeks		32	45
No. of decisions which required the submission of further information		49	52
No. of decisions where an extension of time was agreed by the applicant, under section 34(9) of the Planning and Development Act 2000		1	0



Description	2004	2005	Dec-06
Average length of time taken to determine an application where further information is sought (in days)	80.61	79	78.78
<b>Planning Applications Determined Other: Not Requiring EIA</b>			
Other applications, No EIA. No. of applications decided	1015	1139	1316
% of complete applications determined within 8 weeks	73.2		
No. of decisions which were decided within 8 weeks		893	1117
Average length of time taken to determine an application where further information is sought (in days)	78.17	75.91	76.86
No. of decisions which required the submission of FI		243	199
No. of decisions where an extension of time was agreed by the applicant under Section 34(9) of the Planning and Development Act 2000		3	0
<b>Planning Applications Determined Other: EIA Required</b>			
Other applications, EIA Required. . No. of applications decided	7	4	3
No. of decisions which were decided within 8 weeks		1	2
% of complete applications determined within 8 weeks	14.28		
Average length of time taken to determine an application where further information is sought (in days)	92.71	91	81
No. of decisions which required the submission of FI		3	1
No. of decisions where an extension of time was agreed by the applicant under Section 34(9) of the Planning and Development Act 2000		0	0
<b>Individual Houses: Decisions Taken</b>			
% of grants	54.43	57.91	51.03
% of refusals	45.57	42.09	48.97
% of cases where the decision was confirmed by An Bord Pleanala	67.31		
% of cases where the decision was varied by An Bord Pleanala	0		
% of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanala	32.69	25.53	39.22
% of cases where the decision was confirmed, with or without variations, by An Bord Pleanala		74.47	60.78
<b>Housing Developments: Decisions Taken</b>			
% of grants	47.73	64.63	65.98
% of refusals	52.27	35.37	34.02
% of cases where the decision was confirmed by An Bord Pleanala	56.25		
% of cases where the decision was varied by An Bord Pleanala	6.25		
% of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanala	37.5	32.35	8.7
% of cases where the decision was confirmed, with or without variations, by An Bord Pleanala		67.65	91.3
<b>Other: Applications: No EIA Required</b>			
% of grants	91	91.31	89.21
% of refusals	9	8.69	10.79
% of cases where the decision was confirmed by An Bord Pleanala	66.22		
% of cases where the decision was varied by An Bord Pleanala	6.75		
% of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanala	27.03	27.94	21.84
% of cases where the decision was confirmed, with or without variations, by An Bord Pleanala		72.06	78.16
<b>Other Applications: EIA Required: Decisions Taken</b>			
% of grants	85.7	75	100
% of refusals	14.3	25	0
% of cases where the decision was confirmed by An Bord Pleanala	60		
% of cases where the decision was varied by An Bord Pleanala	20		
% of cases where the decision was reversed ed by An Bord Pleanala	20	0	50





Description	2004	2005	Dec-06
% of cases where the decision was confirmed, with or without variations, by An Bord Pleanala		100	50
<b>Planning Enforcement</b>			
Total number of cases subject to complaints that were investigated	297	418	473
Total number of cases subject to complaints that were dismissed	126	155	131
Total number of cases subject to complaints that were resolved through negotiations		109	57
Number of enforcement procedures taken through warning letters	269	346	549
Number of enforcement procedures taken through enforcement notices	216	152	205
Number of prosecutions	39	29	34
<b>Planning Departments: Number of Hours Open to the Public</b>			
Number of hours	30	43	43
<b>Pre-Planning Consultation</b>			
Number of pre-planning consultation meetings held		376	373
Average length of time from request for consultation with local authority planner to actual formal meeting for pre-planning consultation (in days)	10	9.31	9.8
<b>Number of Buildings Inspected</b>			
Buildings inspected as a % of new buildings notified to the local authority	12.3	18.7	16.7
<b>Local Authority Support for Playgrounds</b>			
Number of children's playgrounds per 1000 population directly provided	0.02	0.0375	<b>10</b>
Number of children's playgrounds per 1000 population facilitated	0	0	0
<b>Recreation: Swim Visits Facilitated By Local Authority</b>			
Number of visitors to local authority facilitated swimming pools per 1000 population	627	616	<b>142,605</b>
<b>Housing Rent and Levels of Arrears</b>			
Amount collected at year end as a % of amount due	78	83.34	83
% Arrears 4-6 weeks old	6.6	11.79	12.64
% Arrears 6-12 weeks old	13.56	12.18	12.4
% Arrears more than 12 weeks old	55.59	50.72	47.07
<b>Housing Loans and Levels of Arrears</b>			
% Amount collected	94	98.63	91.05
% Arrears 1 month old	33	57	48.94
% Arrears 2-3 months old	26	15	11.63
% Arrears more than 3 months old	41	28	39.43
<b>Commercial Rates</b>			
Amount collected at year end as a % of amount due	89.6	91.7	94.02
<b>Non- Domestic Water Charges</b>			
Amount collected	90	72.8	64%
<b>Refuse Charges: % of Households paying refuse charges at year end</b>			
% of households paying refuse collection	100	100	100







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