

**Connected to
Ceangailte le**

**South Dublin County Council
Comhairle Contae Átha Cliath Theas**

**Annual Report 2011
Tuarascáil Bhliantúil 2011**





Annual Report 2011

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Mayors Foreword



As Mayor of South Dublin County, I have been given a wonderful opportunity to experience at first hand the fantastic facilities, projects and initiatives that are happening throughout the county. I have been hugely privileged to meet so many interesting people in my role as 'First Citizen' and I am inspired by their dedication and commitment to their communities.

During my term in office I aim to promote South Dublin's identity as a county that is pro-community, pro-learning and pro-business, where citizens enjoy a high quality of life. I want to engage and encourage all the citizens of South Dublin County both young and old to become more actively involved and to participate in the local democratic process. Through collaborative working between the elected members and our partner agencies, we can create vibrant and inclusive communities.

As Mayor my personal initiative for the year is to build closer links between the local authority and the primary, second and third level educational institutions in the county, I believe that by working together, by sharing information, resources and skills among the agencies we can achieve better educational and social development outcomes for the children and young people of this County. I am very honoured as Mayor to have accepted invitations from local schools to attend green flag ceremonies, promote social inclusion initiatives, road safety campaigns, literacy projects and Irish language events. In particular I would like to mention the 'Connect with Education Conference' which will be hosted by South Dublin County Council. This conference aims to promote the importance of information technology in the learning environment and I look forward to the seminar being held later in 2012.

South Dublin County Council won many awards in 2011 including the LAMA Local Authority of the Year Award and four Chambers Ireland Awards. These awards further demonstrate South Dublin County Council's already proven track record for pushing the boundaries and identifying new ways of doing business to improve our citizen's quality of life

I would like to end by thanking the citizens of South Dublin County and acknowledging the contribution of the Deputy Mayor, Cllr. Pamela Kearns, my fellow Councillors, County Manager Joe Horan and the staff for their continuing support throughout my term of office.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Caitríona Jones', written in a cursive style.

Mayor Caitríona Jones

Message from the County Manager

South Dublin County Council has faced many challenges in recent years. While it has been impacted significantly by falling sources of income and reduced staffing levels, the council has shown great flexibility in making changes to reduce its cost base whilst maintaining services.

South Dublin County Council has continued to maintain frontline service levels despite a staffing embargo introduced in 2009, and the significant impact that this has had on staff numbers. Overall staff numbers reduced by 13% between mid-2008 and 2011 and are likely to reduce further within the next 12 months when we take into account age profile and retirement options.

There has been a strong emphasis on maintaining and supporting frontline services and this has been made possible through ongoing efforts to deliver services in innovative and cost-effective ways and also in forging new ways of doing our business. In a practical way throughout the organisation staff resources are being continually refocused to maintain levels of service to customers. Innovations in service delivery introduced and further developed in 2011 included:

- Business Development and Sustainability Initiative
- Social Credits System
- Innovation Enterprise Zones
- Interagency Children's Services Committee
- Traffic Management Centre
- The ASH Project (Applicant Sourced Homes) and Choice Based Lettings Scheme
- Spatial Data Mapping Project
- Green Energy Project
- Smarter Travel Projects
- Fix Your Street

The council has continued to implement strategies to reduce costs in recent years and where possible these savings are passed on to business and domestic customers. We are conscious of the impact of the current economic climate on local business and in recent years we have introduced strategies to reduce costs for business. The council's annual budget for 2012 will include a further 2.4% reduction in the annual rate in valuation. This is the third consecutive decrease to the rates multiplier by the council resulting in an overall 5.3% reduction in the cost of commercial rates since 2009. These reductions deliver real savings for the commercial rates payers and it is a primary objective of this council to support and increase the number of businesses operating in South Dublin County. During 2011 we embarked on an innovative Business Development and Sustainability Initiative to work with existing business and to encourage new business into the county. This work programme will continue to act as a catalyst for promoting enterprise and employment and assist businesses to focus on issues that will control the cost of doing business in South Dublin County.



Management and staff are working together to achieve a more effective and citizen-focused service. Initiatives aimed at changing the way we work, and the use of interconnected sources of data and technologies have altered fundamentally the way in which work is carried out in this Council. The systems we use now give us better capabilities to manage, track and monitor work. Work volumes delivered, work volumes outstanding and levels of responses to customers are measured so that blockages or deficits, if they arise, can be readily identified and addressed. South Dublin County Council has developed a web-based interface to enable customers to report water and drainage faults, litter and illegal dumping, road or path defects, street lighting faults, tree and grass maintenance issues and graffiti. This project www.fixyoursteet.ie which was developed by South Dublin County Council, is now being rolled out on a national basis.

Looking forward to 2012, the European Year of Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations 2012, South Dublin County Council hopes to achieve a designation of Age Friendly County. Members of the Council at their meeting held on 24 November 2011 formally agreed to seek this designation. This initiative will be advanced by the Mayor during 2012 and it is proposed to engage with Comhairle Na nÓg to develop and foster understanding through an intergenerational communications project.

During 2011, the country experienced exceptional weather events in the early part of the year with snow and ice. This caused significant disruption to water and transport systems. More recently on 24th October 2011, we experienced extensive flooding in the county as a result of unprecedented heavy rainfall. I would like to pay tribute to all the staff who worked in these exceptionally difficult conditions to ensure public safety and protection of property at a time when staff resources are limited. This local authority has received national recognition for its communication strategy in these circumstances.

Finally, I would like to thank the Mayor, Councillor Caitríona Jones and her predecessors Councillor Marie Corr and Eamon Maloney T.D. and each of the Elected Members of the council for their co-operation and support on so many issues during 2011.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Joe Horan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "J".

Joe Horan
County Manager

Section 1

Elected Members / Images and their Electoral Areas

Clondalkin

Name: Cllr. Gino Kenny
Party: People Before Profit Alliance
62 Cherrywood Avenue
Clondalkin
Dublin 22
085 7211574 / 414 9247
vkenny@sdublincoco.ie

Name: Cllr. Matthew McDonagh
Party: Sinn Fein
Clondalkin Civic Offices
Clondalkin
Dublin 22
087 7401854 / 414 9069
matthewmcdonagh@sdublincoco.ie

Name: Cllr. Robert Dowds
Party: The Labour Party
Clondalkin Civic Offices
Clondalkin
Dublin 22
087 6520360 / 414 9248
rdowds@sdublincoco.ie

Cllr Dowds was elected to Dáil Éireann in February 2011 and was replaced through co-option by Cllr. Breda Bonner

Name: Cllr. Breda Bonner
Party: The Labour Party
Clondalkin Civic Offices
Clondalkin
Dublin 22
087 4132627 / 401 9248
bbonner@sdublincoco.ie

Name: Cllr. Therese Ridge
Party: Fine Gael
4 St. Patrick's Avenue
Clondalkin
Dublin 22
457 3438
tridge@sdublincoco.ie

Name: Cllr. Tony Delaney
Party: Fine Gael
Clondalkin Civic Offices
Clondalkin
Dublin 22
086 6694471 / 414 9002
tdelaney@sdublincoco.ie

Name: Cllr. Trevor Gilligan
Party: Fianna Fail
Clondalkin Civic Offices
Clondalkin
Dublin 22
085 7145005
www.trevorgilligan.com
tgilligan@sdblincoco.ie

Lucan

Name: Cllr. Caitriona Jones
Party: The Labour Party
2 larkfield Close,
Lucan,
Co. Dublin.
087 2034427
cjones@sdblincoco.ie

Name: Cllr. Derek Keating,
Party: Fine Gael
66 Beech Park
Lucan
Co. Dublin
087 2857435
dkeating@sdblincoco.ie

Cllr Keating was elected to Dáil Éireann in February 2011 and was replaced through co-option by Cllr Emer Higgins

Name: Cllr. Emer Higgins,
Party: Fine Gael
C/o South Dublin County Council,
County Hall,
Tallaght,
Dublin 24
087 9217741 / 414 9015
ehiggins@sdblincoco.ie

Name: Cllr. Eamon Tuffy
Party: The Labour Party
22 Liffey Wood
Liffey Valley Park
Lucan
Co. Dublin
086 3863173 / 6109313
etuffy@sdblincoco.ie

Name: Cllr. Guss O'Connell
Party: Independent
47 Palmerston Green
Palmerston
Dublin 20
6268554 / 087 6838254
goconnell@sdblincoco.ie

Name: Cllr .William Lavelle
Party: Fine Gael
36 St. Andrew's Drive
Lucan
Co. Dublin
087 4107885 / 414 9050
wlavelle@sdblincoco.ie

Tallaght Central

Name: Cllr. Colm Brophy
Party: Fine Gael
c/o South Dublin County Council
County Hall
Tallaght
Dublin 24
086 2509223 / 414 9015
cbrophy@sdblincoco.ie

Name: Cllr. Dermot Looney
Party: The Labour Party
1 Temple Manor Close
Greenhills
Dublin 12
085 7089955 / 414 9073
dlooney@sdblincoco.ie

Name: Cllr. Eamonn Walsh
Party: Fianna Fail
c/o South Dublin County Council
County Hall
Tallaght
Dublin 24
087 9952211 / 414 9043
eamonnwalsh@sdblincoco.ie

Name: Cllr. Mick Duff
Party: The Labour Party
c/o South Dublin County Council
County Hall
Tallaght
Dublin 24
087 8865570 / 414 9031
mduff@sdublincoco.ie

Name: Cllr. Pamela Kearns
Party: The Labour Party
203 Orwell Park Heights
Templeogue
Dublin 6.W.
087 7756718 / 414 9077
pkearns@sdublincoco.ie

Name: Cllr. Seán Crowe
Party: Sinn Fein
16 Raithéin Na Faiche
Tamhlacht
B.A.C 24
086 3864303
scrowe@sdublincoco.ie

Cllr Crowe was elected to Dáil Éireann in February 2011 and was replaced through co-option by Cllr Maire Devine

Name: Cllr. Maire Devine
Party: Sinn Fein
C/o South Dublin County Council
County Hall
Tallaght
Dublin 24
087 9694728 / 01 4149066 /
mdevine@sdublincoco.ie

Tallaght South

Name: Cllr. Brian Lawlor
Party: Fine Gael
5 Killakee Gardens
Firhouse
Dublin 24
087 6445472 / 414 9082
blawlor@sdublincoco.ie

Name: Cllr. Cathal King
Party: Sinn Fein
c/o South Dublin County Council
County Hall
Tallaght
Dublin 24
4149063 / 086 3186098
cathalking@sdublincoco.ie

Name: Cllr. Eamonn Maloney
Party: The Labour Party
84 St. Maelruan's Park
Tallaght
Dublin 24
4525298
emaloney@sdublincoco.ie

Cllr Maloney was elected to Dáil Éireann in February 2011 and was replaced through co-option by Cllr Chris Bond

Name: Cllr. Chris Bond
Party: The Labour Party
42 Allenton Drive
Ballycragh
Tallaght
Dublin 24
086 1917159 / 414 9070
cbond@sdublincoco.ie

Name: Cllr. John Hannon
Party: Fianna Fail
c/o South Dublin County Council
County Hall
Tallaght
Dublin 24
086 2577213
jhannon@sdublincoco.ie

Name: Cllr. Marie Corr
Party: The Labour Party
35 Sundale Park
Mountain View
Jobstown
Dublin 24
085 7359200 / 414 9075
mcorr@sdublincoco.ie

Rathfarnham

Name: Cllr. Cait Keane
Party: Fine Gael
c/o South Dublin County Council
County Hall
Tallaght
Dublin 24
4149064 / 087 8117824
<http://www.caitkeane.com> ; <https://twitter.com/cllrcaitkeane>
ckeane@sdublincoco.ie

Cllr Keane was elected to Seanad Éireann in April 2011 and was replaced through co-option by Cllr Anne-Marie Dermody

Name: Cllr. AnneMarie Dermody,
Party: Fine Gael
11 Butterfield Avenue
Rathfarnham
Dublin 14
087 3672030
amdermody@sdublincoco.ie

Name: Cllr. Emma Coburn
Party: Fine Gael
c/o South Dublin County Council
County Hall
Tallaght
Dublin 24
087 0628484 / 414 9062
ecoburn@sdublincoco.ie

Name: Cllr. John Lahart
Party: Fianna Fail
6 Orlagh Grange
Scholarstown Road
Rathfarnham
Dublin 16
4939608 / 087 2615529
jlahart@sdublincoco.ie

Name: Cllr. Paddy Cosgrave
Party: The Labour Party
25 Orchardstown Drive
Rathfarnham
Dublin 14
085 1742709
pcosgrave@sdublincoco.ie

Area Committees

Following a comprehensive review of Area Committee operations the Lucan / Clondalkin Area Committee was formally dissolved and two distinct Area Committees were established in line with the two existing Local Electoral Areas. As a result a number of amendments were made to the Council's Standing orders to take account of administrative changes to Council structure and business.

Lucan

Chairperson: Cllr. Guss O'Connell (IND)

Members: Cllr. Caitriona Jones LAB, *Cllr. Derek Keating FG, Cllr. Emer Higgins FG, Cllr. Eamon Tuffy LAB, Cllr. William Lavelle FG

***Cllr Keating was elected to Dáil Éireann in February 2011 and was replaced through co-option by Cllr Emer Higgins**

Clondalkin

Chairperson: Breda Bonner (LAB)

Members: Cllr. Gino Kenny PBPA, Cllr. Matthew McDonagh SF, * Cllr. Robert Dowds LAB, Cllr. Cllr. Therese Ridge FG, Cllr. Tony Delaney FG, Cllr. Trevor Gilligan FF,

***Cllr Dowds was elected to Dáil Éireann in February 2011 and was replaced through co-option by Cllr Breda Bonner**

Tallaght

Chairperson: Cllr. Mick Duff (LAB)

Members: Cllr. Colm Brophy FG, Cllr. Eamonn Walsh FF, Cllr. Dermot Looney LAB, Cllr. Pamela Kearns LAB, *Cllr. Seán Crowe SF, Cllr. Maire Devine SF, Cllr. Brian Lawlor FG, Cllr. Cathal King SF, **Cllr. Eamonn Maloney LAB, Cllr. Chris Bond LAB, Cllr. John Hannon FF, Cllr. Marie Corr LAB

***Cllr Crowe was elected to Dáil Éireann in February 2011 and was replaced through co-option by Cllr Maire Devine**

****Cllr Maloney was elected to Dáil Éireann in February 2011 and was replaced through co-option by Cllr Chris Bond**

Rathfarnham

Chairperson: Cllr. Paddy Cosgrove (LAB)

Members: *Cllr. Cait Keane FG, Cllr. Anne-Marie Dermody FG, Cllr. Emma Coburn FG, Cllr. John Lahart FF,

***Cllr Keane was elected to Seanad Éireann in April 2011 and was replaced through co-option by Cllr AnneMarie Dermody**

Strategic Policy Committees (SPC)

Arts, Culture, Gaelige, Education & Libraries SPC

Councillors

Councillor Marie Corr was replaced by Councillor Paddy Cosgrave as **Chairperson** during 2011

Councillor Tony Delaney

Councillor John Hannon

Councillor Mick Duff

Councillor Caitríona Jones

Councillor Marie Corr

Councillor Eamonn Walsh

Councillor Guss O'Connell

Councillor Maire Devine

Councillor Anne- Marie Dermody

Sectoral Members

Jim Fay, Trade Union

20 Glenview Drive,

Tallaght,

Dublin 24

John Conroy, Culture

2 Tamarisk Drive,

Kilnamanagh,

Dublin 24

Dympna Quinn, Community/ Voluntary

67 Whitehall Road,

Terenure,

Dublin 12

Ann Fitzpatrick, Community/Voluntary

49 Bawnlea Avenue,

Jobstown,

Tallaght, Dublin 24

Economic Development (including Planning) SPC

Councillors

Councillor Eamon Tuffy **Chairperson**

Councillor Colm Brophy

Councillor Emma Coburn

Councillor Marie Corr

Councillor Chris Bond

Councillor Maire Devine

Councillor Trevor Gilligan

Councillor Caitríona Jones

Councillor Pamela Kearns

Councillor Cathal King

Councillor William Lavelle

Councillor Guss O'Connell

Sectoral

Neil Durkin,
1-3 Sandford Road,
Ranelagh,
Dublin 6

Development/Construction

Garrett Robinson,
SIAC Construction,
Monastery Road,
Clondalkin,
Dublin 22

Business/Commercial

Jim Fay,
20 Glenview Drive,
Tallaght,
Dublin 24

Trade Union

Sean Giblin,
2 Finnstown,
Fairways,
Lucan,
Co. Dublin

Environment/Construction

Donnie Anderson,
Castlekelly,
Glenasmole,
Tallaght, Dublin 24

Farming & Agriculture

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

Community/Voluntary

Environment SPC

Councillors

Councillor John Hannon **Chairperson**
Councillor Emma Coburn
Councillor Breeda Bonner
Councillor Maire Devine
Councillor John Lahart
Councillor William Lavelle
Councillor Chris Bond
Councillor Guss O'Connell
Councillor Eamon Tuffy
Councillor Eamonn Walsh

Sectoral

Pat Lee, Farming & Agriculture
St. Anne's,
Bohernabreena,
Co. Dublin

Sherri Brennan, Business/Commercial
Skips Trans,
Unit 518B Greenogue Business Park,
Rathcoole,
Co. Dublin

Connie Kiernan, Environmental/Conservation
187 Wheatfield Road,
Palmerston,
Dublin 20

Una Ruddock, Environmental/Conservation
6 Tullyhall Crescent,
Lucan,
Co. Dublin

Mary Clare Wallace, Community/Voluntary
Killinarden Business Park,
Killinarden,
Tallaght,
Dublin 24

Housing and Social Development SPC

Councillors

Cllr. Eamon Maloney was replaced by Cllr. Paddy Cosgrave and then by Cllr. Marie Corr as **Chairperson** during 2011

Councillor Breeda Bonner
Councillor Mick Duff
Councillor Trevor Gilligan
Councillor Pamela Kearns
Councillor Gino Kenny
Councillor Cathal King
Councillor Brian Lawlor
Councillor Dermott Looney
Councillor Matthew McDonagh

Sectoral

Ben Healy, Environmental/Conservation
Glenbrook Park,
Rathfarnham,
Dublin 14

Tommy Gilson, Community/Voluntary
17 Bawnlea Avenue,
Jobstown,
Dublin 24

John Murphy, Farming & Agriculture
Highdown Hill,
Newcastle,
Co. Dublin

Betty Tyrell Collard, Trade Union
Room 417A,
Department of Enterprise, Trade & Employment
23 Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

Sports, Recreation & Community Affairs (including Parks) SPC

Councillors

Councillor Cathal King **Chairperson**
Councillor Paddy Cosgrave
Councillor Paddy Delaney
Councillor Mick Duff
Councillor Emer Higgins
Councillor Gino Kenny
Councillor Brian Lawlor
Councillor Dermott Looney
Councillor Matthew Mc Donagh
Councillor Therese Ridge

Sectoral

Carmel McCartney,
6 Muckcross Green,
Perrystown,
Dublin 12

Community/Voluntary

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

Community/ Voluntary

Cecil Johnson,
Killinarden Community Council,
Killinarden Business Park,
Tallaght,
Dublin 24,

Disadvantage / Social Inclusion

James Coughlan,
Astropark,
Greenhills Road,
Dublin 24.

Business / Commercial

Transportation SPC

Councillors

Councillor Therese Ridge **Chairperson**
Councillor Colm Brophy **Chairperson from 14th December 2011**
Councillor Emma Coburn
Councillor Paddy Cosgrave
Councillor Caitríona Jones
Councillor Anne- Marie Dermody
Councillor John Lahart
Councillor Emer Higgins
Councillor William Lavelle
Councillor Eamon Tuffy

Sectoral

Matt Moran,
IBEC
Confederation House,
Dublin 2

Business/Commercial

Tom Newton,
7 Meadow View Grove,
Hillcrest,
Lucan, Co. Dublin

Community/Voluntary

Kevin Farrell,
6 Tullyhall Crescent,
Lucan,
Co. Dublin

Environmental/ Conservation

Betty Tyrell Collard,
Room 417A,
Dept. of Enterprise, Trade & Employment,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

Trade Union

Nuala Maher,
47 Garville Avenue
Rathgar,
Dublin 6

Business/ Commercial

Corporate Policy Group

Joe Horan
(County Manager)

Caitríona Jones
(Mayor)

Eamonn Maloney/Paddy Cosgrave/Marie Corr
(Chair Housing and Social)

Marie Corr/Paddy Cosgrave
(Chair Arts, Culture and Gaelige)

Eamonn Tuffy
(Chair Economic Development and Planning)

John Hannon
(Chair Environment)

Derek Keating/Therese Ridge/Colm Brophy
(Chair Transport)

Cathal King
(Chair Sports and Recreation)

County Development Board (CDB)

Mayor Caitríona Jones

Local Government Sector

Cllr. Eamon Tuffy- CDB Chair- Economic Development SPC Chair

Cllr. John Hannon- Environment, SPC Chair

Cllr. Marie Corr- Housing and Social Policy, SPC Chair

Cllr. Cathal King- Sport, Recreation, Communities and Parks, SPC Chair

Cllr. Therese Ridge- Transportation SPC Chair

Cllr. Paddy Cosgrave- Arts, Culture, Education, Libraries and Gaeilge

Joe Horan – County Manager

Local Development Sector

Aileen O’ Donoghue- CPLN Partnership

Anna Lee- Dodder Valley Partnership

Loman O’ Byrne- South Dublin Enterprise Board

Jean Courtney - South Dublin County Childcare Committee

Maria Donohue- South Dublin Children Services

Alan Breathnach- South Dublin Enterprise Board

Gail Mc Gibbon- South Dublin Tourism

State Agencies

Tom Rowan - FÁS

Vacancy- I.D.A Ireland

Kieran O’Sullivan- Co. Dublin V.E.C

Julie Cruickshank- Health Services Executive

George Kiely- Enterprise Ireland

John Manley - An Garda Síochána

Pat Ryan -Department of Social and Family Affairs

Social Partners

Aisling Flynn- South Dublin Community Platform

Peter Byrne- South Dublin Chamber of Commerce

Christy Mc Donnell - South Dublin Community Forum

Justin Byrne- Environmental Pillar

Council Membership of Committees and Statutory Bodies 2011

Association of City and County Councils

Cllr. Colm Brophy
Cllr. Cathal King
Cllr. Guss O' Connell

Audit Committee

Cllr. Emma Coburn
Cllr. John Lahart
Cllr. Guss O' Connell

Civic Theatre Committee

Cllr. Therese Ridge
Cllr. Chris Bond

Clondalkin Drug Task Force

Cllr. Matthew Mc Donagh
Cllr. Gino Kenny
Cllr. Breeda Bonner

CPLN Area Partnership

Cllr. Matthew Mc Donagh
Cllr. Eamonn Tuffy
Cllr. Guss O' Connell

Dodder Valley Partnership

Cllr. Pamela Kearns
Cllr. Colm Brophy
Cllr. Eamonn Walsh
Cllr. Mick Duff

Dublin 12 Drugs Task Force

Cllr. Pamela Kearns

Dublin Bus Forum

Cllr. Mick Duff
Cllr. Cathal King
Cllr. Brian Lawlor
Cllr. Maire Devine

Dublin Mid Leinster Regional Health Forum

Cllr. Brian Lawlor
Cllr. Cathal King
Cllr. Guss O' Connell
Cllr. Mick Duff
Cllr. Eamonn Walsh
Cllr. Tony Delaney
Cllr. Maire Devine

Dublin Regional Authority

Cllr. Pamela Kearns
Cllr. Guss O' Connell
Cllr. Maire Devine
Cllr. Brian Lawlor
Cllr. Eamonn Walsh
Cllr. Cathal King

Dublin Regional Tourism Authority

Cllr. Colm Brophy

Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurances

Cllr. Colm Brophy

Liffey Valley Management Advisory Committee

Cllr. Trevor Gilligan
Cllr. Gino Kenny
Cllr. Matthew Mc Donagh
Cllr. Therese Ridge
Cllr. Caitríona Jones
Cllr. William Lavelle
Cllr. Guss O' Connell
Cllr. Eamon Tuffy
Cllr. Tony Delaney
Cllr. Emer Higgins
Cllr. Breeda Bonner

Local Authority Members Association

Cllr. Therese Ridge

Meath Foundation at Tallaght Hospital

Cllr. Chris Bond

North Clondalkin RAPID Area Implementation Team

Cllr. Gino Kenny

Regional Drugs Task Force

Cllr. Mick Duff

South Dublin County Council Heritage Forum

Cllr. Eamon Tuffy
Cllr. Tony Delaney
Cllr. Chris Bond

South Dublin County Council Joint Policing Committee

Cllr. Paddy Cosgrave
Cllr. Gino Kenny
Cllr. Matthew Mc Donagh
Cllr. William Lavelle
Cllr. Brian Lawlor
Cllr. Guss O' Connell
Cllr. Emma Coburn
Cllr. John Lahart
Cllr. Eamonn Walsh
Cllr. John Hannon
Cllr. Pamela Kearns
Cllr. Breeda Bonner
Cllr. Maire Devine

South Dublin County Enterprise Board

Cllr. Paddy Cosgrave
Cllr. Pamela Kearns
Cllr. Trevor Gilligan
Cllr. Colm Brophy

South Dublin County Tourism Board

Cllr. Colm Brophy
Cllr. Eamonn Walsh
Cllr. Mick Duff
Cllr. Cathal King

Southern and Eastern Regional Assembly

Cllr. Pamela Kearns
Cllr. Cathal King
Cllr. Brian Lawlor

Tallaght Community Arts Centre

Cllr. Mick Duff
Cllr. John Hannon

Tallaght Drugs Task Force

Cllr. Brian Lawlor
Cllr. Colm Brophy
Cllr. Cathal King
Cllr. Chris Bond

Tallaght West Rapid Implementation Team

Cllr. Marie Corr

Vocational Educational Committee

Cllr. Guss O' Connell
Cllr. Caitríona Jones
Cllr. Dermott Looney
Cllr. Therese Ridge
Cllr. William Lavelle

Events attended in 2011

<u>January</u>	<u>Location</u>
Mayor attended Lama Awards	Crown Plaza Hotel, Santry
Mayor attended the South Dublin County Disability Advisory /Consultative Panel Universal Design Seminar	Council Chamber, County Hall
Mayor attended the Annual Igue Festival Celebration	Greenhills Community Centre
February	
<u>February</u>	<u>Location</u>
Mayor attended Road Safety with pupils from Firhouse Community College	Council Chamber, County Hall
Mayor launched the Engineers Art Week	Rua Red Arts Centre
Mayor attended Carbon/Social Credit Scheme event	Tallaght Stadium
Mayor attended book launch	Ballyroan Library
Mayor attended the official opening of 35 Units at New Seskin Court	Whitestown Way, Tallaght
Mayor attended with President Mary McAleese	St. Dominics Community Centre, Tallaght
March	
<u>March</u>	<u>Location</u>
Mayor launched Ireland's Holi Festival 2011 aka (Festival of Colours)	Concourse, SDCC
Mayor attended Citywise Annual Awards	Citywise
Mayor launched Seachtain Na Gaeilge	County Hall
Mayor attended Launch of South Dublin Volunteers	Tallaght Stadium
Mayor launched National Tree Week	St. Dominic's N.S. Tallaght
Mayor presented certificates for Parenting Programme	Fettercairn

Mayor attended St. Patrick's Day Celebrations	Tallaght Stadium
Mayor attended book Launch - Mae Newman	County Library, County Hall
Mayor attended European Week against Racism	Clondalkin Leisure & Complex Centre
Mayor attended prize giving and environmental workshop - St. Thomas SNS	County Library, County Hall
Mayor opened up a cafe discussion on Intercultural Community Engagement	St. Ronans, Deansrath
Mayor attended eGovernment Awards	Dublin Castle
Mayor attended Exhibition by Jim Young	County Library, County Hall
Mayor attended European Week against Racism	Clondalkin Leisure & Complex Centre
Mayor attended Celebrations of Jerry Judge's life	Tallaght Stadium
Mayor attended Act Up Theatre Festival Awards	Tallaght Theatre
Deputy Mayor Cathal King attended the Arts Festival NOISE flicks	Rua Red Arts Centre
Mayor attended the Young Social Innovators Programme for 2011	Green Isle Hotel
Mayor attended "Pride of Jobstown"	Kiltalown House, Jobstown
April	
Mayor attended the Greenhills College FETAC Awards	County Library, County Hall
Mayor attended the launch of Eco-Week 2011	Council Chambers, County Hall
Deputy Mayor Eamonn Tuffy attended Green Flag Ceremony	Scoil Aine, Esker Lucan
Mayor attended the exhibition "The Story of Coffee" - Ambassador of The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia attended	County Library, County Hall

Mayor attended Jazz Up Jobstown	St. Thomas J.S. Jobstown
Mayor attended "Tallaght Reads Roddy"	Tallaght Stadium
Deputy Mayor Cathal King presented awards at the Junior Cup Final	Donnybrook
Mayor attended European Week Against Racism	Council Chamber, County Hall
Mayor attended Green Flag Ceremony	Scoil Carmel JNS, Firhouse
Mayor attended Art Festival NOISEmoves	Rua Red Arts Centre
Deputy Mayor Cathal King attended Members of Oireachtas Meeting	Council Chamber, County Hall
Mayor attended the launch of the Irish Dancing Championships by President Mary McAleese	Citywest Hotel
Deputy Mayor Cathal King attended Street Soccer Tournament	An Post building, Kiltipper
Deputy Mayor Cllr. Mick Duff attended the Closing Ceremony Gala Ball of the Irish Dancing Championships	Citywest Hotel
Launch of Bilingual book of Poetry	County Library, County Hall
Deputy Mayor Cllr. Mick Duff attended U18 Boys team will host England in final game of Centenary Shield	Tallaght Stadium
<u>May</u>	<u>Location</u>
Deputy Mayor Cathal King attended the presentation at Silhouette International (BRC Shooting)	Bohernabreena
Deputy Mayor Cllr. Guss O'Connell attended 5th Annual Interfaith Peace Conference (The Ahmadiyya Muslim Assoc.)	Clarion Hotel, Liffey Valley
Mayor launched the Heritage Plan	Rua Red Arts Centre
Mayor launched Bealtaine Festival	Clondalkin Sports Centre

Mayor attended Launch of Bealtaine Festival	Clondalkin Leisure Centre
Mayor attended Book Launch for Pride of Jobstown	County Library, County Hall
Mayor launched Exhibition by Oliver Murray	County Library, County Hall
Mayor attended Green Flag Ceremony	Old Bawn Community College
Mayor attended Launch of THAU (Respond)	Tallaght Homeless Advice Centre
Mayor attended Fields of Dreams	Tallaght Stadium
Deputy Mayor Cllr. Paddy Cosgrave attended Bar Mitzvah	32, Rathfarnham Road, Dublin 14.
Mayor attended the book launch of a graphic novel created by students from Firhouse Community College & Colaiste Bride	County Library, County Hall
Mayor presented awards for the 2nd Level Schools Competition	Council Chamber, County Hall
Mayor attended Tallaght Youth Citizenship Awards 2011	Brookfield Youth & Community Centre
Mayor attended the Launch of the APT Visual Art project	St. Aengus Community Centre, Castletymon Road
Mayor attended Prize giving ceremony for Think Local Comhairle na nÓg Poster Design Competition	Council Chamber, County Hall
Mayor attended the raising of a Green Flag for Transport	Holy Rosary School, Tallaght
Mayor attended launch of showcasing film work by St. Kevin's Integrated Youth Arts Project	Rua Red Arts Centre.
Deputy Mayor Cllr. Mick Duff attended the WINSSENT Conference	Tallaght Stadium
Mayor opened new play ground	St. Bernadettes JNS, Quarryvale
Deputy Mayor Cllr. Eamonn Tuffey attended the Bioblitz events	Waterstone Park, Liffey Valley

Deputy Mayor Cllr. Eamonn Tuffy attended Security & Emergency Services are holding a football blitz in Sarsfields GAA Lucan and dinner	Spa Hotel, Lucan
Deputy Mayor Cllr. Eamonn Tuffy attended the Dublin Regional Authority Conference	Finnstown House, Lucan
Mayor attended clean up	St. Dominics Area
Mayor attended the Closing of Bealtaine Festival	Tallaght Stadium
Mayor attended Green Flag Ceremony	Tallaght Community School
Mayor attended the Graduation Ceremony	St. Aidan's Community School, Brookfield
Mayor attended Killinarden Community School	Killinarden Community School
Mayor presented certificates	VEC, Tallaght
Deputy Mayor Cllr. Eamonn Tuffy attended Art Exhibition	Archbishop Ryan SNS, Balgaddy, Lucan
<u>June</u>	<u>Location</u>
Mayor attended Citywise Library event	Citywise
Mayor attended the Launch of the Heritage Plan	Rua Red Arts Centre
Mayor attended the Rualle Buaile Festival	Lucan
Mayor attended Keep Safe Boxing event.	Westside Boxing Club Brookfield
Mayor attended the opening of Social Media Means Business Conference	Tallaght Stadium
Mayor presented certificates to a group of parents who have completed the Advanced Incredible Years Programme	The Bungalow on Kilcarrig Avenue in Fettercairn
Mayor attended Green Flag Ceremony	St. Dominics National School, Tallaght

Mayor presented certificates re Doodle Dan	Tallaght Library, County Hall
Mayor opened the Time Banking Workshop	Fettercairn Community Centre
Mayor attended Comenius Project	St. Aidan's National School, Brookfield,
Mayor attended the Hindu Community Charity event.	Fitzpatrick Castle Hotel, Killiney
Mayor launched Book "Allegiances Compromised"	County Library, County Hall
Mayor attended the Childhood Development Initiative (CDI) BBQ	Fettercairn
Annual Meeting	Council Chamber, County Hall
Mayor attended International Maths Conference called "Mathematical Eyes"	I.T.T.
Mayor attended AGM - Clondalkin	Neilstown Community Centre, Clondalkin
Mayor attended Gala Dinner (International Math's Conference)	I.T.T.
<u>July</u>	<u>Location</u>
Mayor attended the Directory of Services in South Dublin for Frontline Staff working together for children	Council Chamber, County Hall
Mayor attended the opening of a bridge on Grand Canal Way Green Route to Adamstown & Griffeen Avenue	
Mayor attended the opening of New Luas Line Extension	Fettercairn Community Centre
Mayor attended National Play Day	Corkagh Park
Mayor attended photo-shoot re Waterdrop Video	County Library, County Hall
Mayor opened New DocMorris Pharmacy in Lucan	Unit 1 - 2 Woodview Court, Lucan
Mayor attended All outreach youth convention	Unit 5, Kylemore Park South, Ballyfermot

Mayor attended Celebration of Accessibility event in Corkagh Park	Camac Valley Caravan and Camping Park
Mayor attended the 4th Ireland Holy Ghost Service by The Redeemed Christian Church of God	City West Hotel & Convention Centre, Saggart
Deputy Mayor Cllr. Mick Duff attended the 3rd Family Day Celebrations of the Kingdom Dominion Christian Church	Block J, Unit 5, Ballymount Drive, Ballymount Industrial Estate
Mayor attended Ahmadiyya Muslim Lecture	Finnstown Country House Hotel
August	
August	Location
Mayor attended the opening of the new McDonalds Drive Thru in Liffey Valley.	Liffey Valley Retail Park
Mayor attended the Urhobo Progress Union (a social cultural group in Delta State of Nigeria)	Ballyfermot Civic Centre
September	
September	Location
Mayor attended an Art Exhibition	Lucan Library
Mayor attended meeting re bidding for Irish Dancing on Saturday 10th September 2011	
Mayor attended Bid for World Irish Dancing Competition for 2014, 2015 or 2016	Radisson Blu Hotel, Dublin Airport
Mayor attended the People of the Year Awards 2011	Citywest Hotel
Mayor attended the 9/11 celebrations by the Tallaght Youth Band.	The Basketball Arena, Tallaght
Mayor launched Mobility Week	Stocking Lane, Tallaght
Mayor attended An Cosan's 25 years celebrations (President McAleese attending also)	An Cosan building, Tallaght
Mayor launched Creative Campus	Big Picture Building, Tallaght

Mayor attended Green Flag Ceremony	Colaiste de Hide
Mayor attended "get your tyres check" for mobility week	SDCC Car park
Mayor attended start of Cycle at St. Brigids School	Fonthill Road
Mayor attended Clondalkin Camera Club Annual event.	Clondalkin Library
Mayor presented FETAC Certs in relation to Dodder Valley Partnership	Killinarden Enterprise Park
Mayor attended Adamstown Cricket Club's Tournament.	Adamstown.
Deputy Mayor attended Official Open Day of Greenhills Community Centre.	Greenhills Community Council
Mayor attended the 9th Jalsa Salana (Annual Convention) AGM - Ahmadiyya Muslim Association, Ireland	Glen Royal Conference Hotel, Maynooth
Mayor attended the Lucan Festival - Time to be confirmed	Lucan Village
Mayor attended Phoenix Park National Trials Day	Phoenix Park
Mayor launched the Active Citizenship Week	County Hall
Mayor and Deputy Mayor attended "Meet your Politicians"	Council Chamber, County Hall
Deputy Mayor attended the signing for "Ageing Well Network" with the County Manager	City Hall, Dublin
Deputy Mayor met a group of students visiting from Scotland	Council Chamber, County Hall

<u>October</u>	<u>Location</u>
Mayor attended Westside Boxing Club Tribute for Bill Stacey	Red Cow Hotel
Mayor attended South Dublin County Sports Partnership Charity Walk for Somalia	Thomas Davies GAA Car Park to Bohernabreena
Mayor attended an Open Evening in Pobalscoil Iosolde.	Palmerstown Community School
Mayor attended Green Flag Ceremony	Divine Word School, Marley Park
Mayor launched the Children's Book Festival	County Library, County Hall
Mayor attended the launch by Brian Hayes, Minister of State at the Dept of Finance, the cross border Art Exhibition	County Library, County Hall
Mayor launched "Welcome to Tallaght Community Directory"	Tallaght Stadium
Mayor launched Men's shed Mental Health Awareness event.	Tallaght Unemployment Centre - Scouts Den
Mayor attended First Annual Convention of the Platform against Poverty and Social Exclusion	Rehab, Ballymount
Mayor attended the opening of new WEE facility.	I.T.T.
Deputy Mayor attended Launch Volunteers Fair	Council Chamber, County Hall
Mayor attended Demonstration of the Remote Irish Sign Language Interpreting Services pilot	Templeogue Village
Mayor attended Road Safety HGV Roadshow	Kiltalown House
Mayor attended Tallaght Hope & Remembrance Service 2011	TRP premises at Kiltalown House
Mayor attended Pieta House Ladies Night Out	Spa Hotel, Lucan
Mayor attended Launch of Kilcronan Community Garden	Kilcronan, Clondalkin

Road Safety Project	Firhouse Community College
Mayor attended the opening AGM of Comhairle Na nÓg	
Mayor launched Modified Expression, which is about books inspired by authors participating in the Literature strand of the Kilkenny Arts Festival	County Library, County Hall
Mayor attended Miss Nigeria event	City West Hotel, Saggart
Mayor attended HCCI Hindu Cultural Event	Taney Hall, Dundrum
<u>November</u>	<u>Location</u>
Opening of WEEE facility - Rehab	Ballymount
Mayor launched Social Inclusion Week - Minister Joan Burton attended.	Council Chamber, County Hall
Mayor attended opening of Fold Ireland's Terenure branch.	Block 1, The Courtyard, Fortfield Square, College Drive, Terenure, Dublin 6
Deputy Mayor attended Annual IT Conferring Awards	Basketball Arena
Mayor made presentation to Young Children who participated in the Social Inclusion Competition.	Council Chamber, County Hall
Mayor attended the 2011 Excellence in Local Government Awards.	Burlington Hotel, Dublin
Deputy Mayor attended Annual IT Conferring Awards	Basketball Arena
Mayor attended Tea Dance for the Active Retired	Red Cow Inn
Mayor launched New Business Section in County Library followed by "Check out a Champion"	County Library, County Hall
Mayor attended Presidential Inauguration	Dublin Castle
Deputy Mayor attended Winter Show	Rua Red Arts Centre

Mayor attended the Ahmadiya Muslim Association Lunch	Leopardstown, Dublin
Mayor attended at Libraries Readers Day.	Maldron Hotel, Tallaght
Mayor attended Adamstown Board of Mgt Meeting	Adamstown CC
Mayor attended An Cosan Conferring Awards	An Cosan
Mayor attended the Beautiful South Dublin Awards	Council Chamber, County Hall
Mayor met with Comhairle Na nÓg Representatives	County Hall
Mayor launched the South Dublin Migrant Integration Forum	Council Chamber, County Hall
Mayor attended launch of I Love South Dublin Photography Competition	County Library, County Hall
Mayor attended Lucan Taxi Drivers Meeting	Lucan
Mayor attended Intergenerational prize bingo session	Dominic's Community Centre, Tallaght
Dublin Mountains Partnership Meeting	County Hall
Cllr. Guss O'Connell attended 4th anniversary conference of the Association of Ghanaian Professionals in Ireland (AGPI)	Clarion Hotel, Liffey Valley
Mayor attended the Dublin Fire Brigade Annual Mass.	Dominick Street Church
Mayor attended Social Inclusion through the Performing Arts (ended the Social Inclusion Week)	Civic Theatre, Tallaght
Mayor opened National Accessibility Week 2011	County Hall, Tallaght
Mayor held Irish Sign Language interpreted conference call morning with deaf and hard of Hearing people.	Mayors Conference Room, County Hall
Mayor attended the Tallaght Camera Club exhibition	County Library, County Hall

<u>December</u>	<u>Location</u>
Mayor attended AIB Launch Day	Old Bawn Community School
Mayor attended Community Centre to meet President Higgins	Dominic's Community Centre, Tallaght
Mayor switched on the Christmas Tree Lights in Tallaght.	Civic Square, Tallaght
Mayor attended Christmas Dinner of the Adorable Mums	Pattaya Restaurant, Clondalkin
Mayor attended the Dublin Civil Defence Mass	Arbour Hill, Dublin
Mayor attended Christmas Fair	Gaelscoil, Lucan
Cllr. Mick Duff attended as Deputy Mayor the St. Aengus Retirement Dinner	St. Aengus, Tallaght
Mayor attended photo shoot	Dominic's Community Centre
Mayor switched on Clondalkin Christmas Tree Lights	Civic Offices Clondalkin
Mayor attended St. Vincent De Paul Senior Citizen's Christmas Party	Penny Black, Tallaght
Mayor attended the 100 year celebrations of Library in Clondalkin	Clondalkin Library
Mayor attended the launching of Tree Marker	Rua Red Arts Centre
Mayor attended the Amateur Sports Awards	
Mayor turned the sod for the new library	Ballyroan
Mayor attended the South Dublin Chambers Lunch	Red Cow Moran's Hotel
Mayor attended the Tallaght Youth Band Christmas Concert	Tallaght Community School
Mayor launched the Live Crib	Aras Chronain, Clondalkin
Mayor attended the awards in the I.T.T.	Institute of Technology Tallaght
Mayor attended Christmas Wonderland	Corkagh Park
Mayor attended the Christmas Concert	Archbishop Ryan's School, Lucan

Conferences attended by Councillors in 2011

Conference: Compliance with Planning Permission

Venue: The Kings Valley Hotel, Galway

Theme: Enforcement of Conditions of Planning, Professional indemnity insurance and bonds

Conference: The role of State Institutions and Law Reform

Venue: Thomond Park Stadium, Limerick

Theme: Promoting Irelands Economic Future

Conference: Anti Social Behaviour and Health and Safety

Venue: Clonea Strand Hotel, Dungarvan, Co. Waterford

Theme: Anti Social and Health and Safety Matters

Conference: Association of Municipal Authorities of Ireland Spring Seminar

Venue: West Lodge Hotel, Bantry, Co. Cork

Theme: Various Topics

Conference: Association of City and County Councils

Venue: Tullamore Court Hotel, Tullamore, Co. Offaly

Theme: Annual Conference

Conference: Effective Chairmanship

Venue: Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork

Theme: How to be an Effective Chairman

Conference: Future of Irish Politics

Venue: Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, Co Cork

Theme: Irish Politics and its Future

Conference: LAMA Spring Seminar

Venue: Fairways Hotel, Dundalk

Theme: Economic Revival; A role for Local Government

Conference: Irish Planning Conference

Venue: Radisson Blu Hotel, Galway

Theme: Reshaping Irish Planning

Conference: European Influence on Local Government

Venue: Kingsvalley Hotel, Galway

Theme: European Influences on Local Government

Conference: Public Speaking and Promotional Literature

Venue: Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork

Theme: How public Representatives can get their message across to the public

Conference: Exploring Local Government Reform

Venue: Kingsvalley Hotel, Galway

Theme: Reform of Local Government

Conference: Renewable Energy
Venue: Mill Park Hotel, Donegal
Theme: Local Government can make a difference

Conference: Elected Members Responsibilities
Venue: Kingsvalley Hotel, Galway
Theme: Indemnity from Libitris

Conference: Environmental Conference
Venue: Hyland's Hotel, Ballyvaughan Co. Galway
Theme: Environment Services

Conference: Mac Guill Summer School
Venue: Glenties, Co. Donegal
Theme: Patrick Mac Guill

Conference: Yates Summer School
Venue: Memorial Building, Sligo
Theme: William Butler Yates

Conference: Legislation for Local Government Reform
Venue: Westport Plaza Hotel, Castlebar Street, Westport, Co. Mayo
Theme: Local Government Reform

Conference: Association of Municipal Authorities of Ireland
Venue: Knightsbrook Hotel, Trim. Co. Meath
Theme: Various Topics

Conference: Effective Representation for your Constituents
Venue: Manor West Hotel, Tralee, Co. Kerry
Theme: **How** to Represent your Constituents More Efficiently

Conference: LAMA Autumn Conference
Venue: Clonlea Strand Hotel, Dungarvan, Co. Waterford
Theme: The Role of Tourism in Economic Recovery

Conference: La Touche Legacy Conference
Venue: Greystones Co. Wicklow
Theme: Local Democracy a vision for the Future

Conference: Social Housing
Venue: Carlton Atlantic Coast Hotel, Westport
Theme: Social Housing Assessment Regulations 2011

Conference: The Role of Regional Authority
Venue: Kingsvalley Hotel, Galway
Theme: Operation and Policy Making in Local Government

Conference: Rights of Way
Venue: Kingsvalley Hotel, Galway
Theme: Changes in respect of way Introduced under the Land & Conveyancing Law Reform Act 2009.

Conference: Clare Tourism Conference
Venue: Falls Hotel Ennistymon, Co. Clare
Theme: Tourism: The Potential for Growth

Conference: Public Expenditure
Venue: Kingsvalley Hotel, Galway
Theme: Public Expenditure

Conference: Local Government Expenses
Venue: Kingsvalley Hotel, Galway
Theme: Expenses of Local Government

Amount Spent on Conferences **€25,125.84**

Awards & Achievements 2011

LAMA Awards 2011

South Dublin County Council was named as 'Council of the Year 2011' at the 5th Annual Local Authority Members Association Awards, held on Saturday 22nd January.

In addition to the 'Council of the Year' award, 6 projects from South Dublin County Council were shortlisted, with the Council winning awards in the following categories:

Best Use of External Communication: Connecting the Past: Mapping South Dublin County in Time

Best Recreational Facility: Grand Canal Way Green Route 3rd-12th Lock

Best Public Park: Corkagh Park

Chambers Ireland Awards 2011

South Dublin County Council won four awards at the prestigious Chambers Ireland 8th Annual Excellence in Local Government Awards. South Dublin County Council was selected for its ongoing efforts to promote its area as a location of choice for people to live, work, invest and visit.

The Council won the following:

- Sustaining the Arts Award: Tallaght Young Filmmakers
- Joint Local Authority Initiative Award: Dublin Mountains Way
- Smarter Travel Award: Smarter Travel Adamstown
- Outstanding Customer Service: Camac Valley Caravan and Camping Park

Section 2

Community Services Department

Community Services Department is responsible for the County Development Board, the RAPID Programme, the Social Inclusion Unit, the Community Development Teams, the Sports and Arts Offices and Tallaght Stadium. 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. The Department supports the Area Committees of the Council and two Strategic Policy Committees - Sports, Recreation, Community and Parks, and Arts, Culture, An Gaeilge, Education and Libraries. The main achievements of the Department during 2011 are set out below.

South Dublin County Development Board

Work continued on implementing the plan that was prepared in 2009.

The County Development Board met five times in 2011 and its subgroups met and reported to the Board on a variety of issues including:

- Interagency Traveller Actions
- Children's Services Committee Initiatives
- County Childcare Committee
- Integration
- RAPID Programmes

Think Local Campaign

2011 continued to be a difficult time for residents and businesses in this County.

The Economic Development Working Group continued the Think Local campaign particularly around the Christmas period. A school competition was held to highlight Think Local within second level schools in the County. A public procurement seminar was held for businesses located in South Dublin County which brought together South Dublin County Council, Institute of Technology Tallaght and the County Dublin Vocational Education Committee and explained the procurement process of these large organisations.

Interagency Group for Traveller Services

South Dublin County Traveller Interagency Group met on five occasions in 2011. This group has a Strategy which is divided into nine actions and each of these nine actions is progressed by a lead agency. The CDB Executive organised two interagency debates around the subject of the All Ireland Health Strategy and Conflict within the Community. Interagency meetings for frontline staff were held on a regular basis.

South Dublin County Joint Policing Committee

South Dublin County's Joint Policing Committee (JPC) is a forum where the Local Authority and the senior Garda officers, Elected Members of the Council, Oireachtas members and community interests meet, consult, discuss and make recommendations on matters affecting community policing and community safety. The Committee met 4 times in 2011. The JPC continued to support the SDCC/FAI – Late-night leagues which use football as a tool for the prevention of anti-social behaviour. Crime Rates/Statistics in the South Dublin County Administrative area are circulated at each meeting.

CCTV Schemes are now operating and monitored in areas of South Dublin County. Three Local Policing Fora are still in place, meeting regularly and holding public meetings which allow residents to voice issues of local concern. A number of subcommittees have been set up to deal with specific issues.

RAPID Programme

The RAPID Programme continues in the North Clondalkin and West Tallaght. By 2011 the Programme had been running for 10 years, and over that period significant infrastructural improvements have been made. Many other actions relating to improved integration and service delivery have also taken place. The highlights in 2011 under the RAPID theme headings have included:

Community Safety and Anti Social Behaviour

The three Local Policing Fora established in 2010 (Clondalkin, North Clondalkin and West Tallaght) are now functioning effectively with strong links to Local Community Safety Fora and to the countywide Joint Policing Committee. Public meetings have been hosted in the three areas with significant numbers of local residents attending. Problem Solving Training for community representatives, Local Authority staff and An Garda Síochána, using the Scanning, Analysing, Responding and Assessing SARA model, was rolled out in Tallaght and Clondalkin with 24 people trained in Clondalkin and 80 in Tallaght.

In West Tallaght work began on a joint action with the Childhood Development Initiative. Two Community Safety Initiative Pilot Sites were identified in Killinarden and Fettercairn and local committees were established to develop responses to issues identified by the community as having a negative impact on community safety.

Family support

A West Tallaght-wide strategy group has been formed to link existing community providers of services to older people. Several actions took place in 2011 including social outings and tea dances.

Health

The suicide prevention and mental health strategies led by Suicide Action West Tallaght (SAWT) and Community Action on Suicide (CAS) in Clondalkin continue to provide comprehensive support and resources to their communities through public meetings, training, film and drama workshops and counselling. Both communities had significant input into the successful applications for Jigsaw status and funding to provide a Hub and a staff team in both Clondalkin and Tallaght.

Four successful health fairs were held in May 2011 in Springfield, Killinarden, Jobstown and Fettercairn in Partnership with Health Promotion Unit of the HSE.

Physical Environment

A number of RAPID supported projects including Neilstown Boxing Club, South Dublin Football League All Weather Facility and Collinstown Park Changing Rooms were completed this year. Work also began on the Rowlagh Community Centre extension and refurbishment. Work continued on sustaining existing RAPID funded infrastructure through upgrades and additions

to Multi-Use Game Areas (MUGA) and Playgrounds and the creation of outdoor play areas for community crèches.

Following the distribution of equipment and materials to key locations across West Tallaght several community clean ups took place in April 2011. This project was organised in conjunction with the Environment Department.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TEAM

- 6 Community Employment and 1 Job Initiative Scheme are sponsored by South Dublin County Council
- 10 Deputation Meetings were serviced
- Children in 25 Primary Schools were provided with sandwiches, fruit, yogurt drink and milk through the School Meals Scheme.
- Management Assistance Grants were paid to 12 Community Centres
- 79 grant applications under the Community Grants Scheme were processed
- 31 Summer Projects availed of Summer Projects Funding
- More than 8,000 spectators and 900 participants attended the St. Patrick's Day Celebration which was held in Tallaght Stadium

Community Facilities

Construction work began on the extension/upgrade of Rowlagh Community Centre. The upgrade refurbishment works at Rowlagh Community Centre will transform this single storey facility into a modern three storey community centre including childcare facilities and other activities and will re-open in summer 2012.

Neilstown Community Centre was also upgraded and refurbished in 2011 in conjunction with the development of the Boxing Club and is now fully operational.

South County Dublin Leisure Services Ltd received *The White Flag*, ILAM annual award for recognition of best practice in leisure management for the three Sports & Leisure facilities in Tallaght, Clondalkin and Lucan.

Summer Projects

South Dublin County Council's involvement in Summer Projects in 2011 was very successful.

Overall 31 projects
Total 4,809 children participated.

Extensive work was carried out by the Summer Projects Committee in 2011. Changes were made to the structure of the committee, the public information night, and the evaluation processes.

The 2011 Summer Projects Evaluation Report highlights the low numbers of voluntarily run projects relative to Youth Service projects. The findings from the report demonstrate:

- ❖ Voluntary projects are most likely to be under resourced.
- ❖ Voluntary projects experience difficulty in capacity building of volunteers.
- ❖ Voluntary projects experience difficulty in sustaining volunteers.

The 2011 Summer Projects Evaluation Report recommends changes be made to the Council's Summer Projects Grant criteria, placing greater emphasis on supporting fledgling voluntary projects with numbers starting at 50 children.

Junior Achievement

The 2011 junior achievement programme took place in St. Kevin's Community College, Clondalkin, with 2nd year students.

23 students and a class teacher participated in the six week course facilitated by the Council's community worker.

The theme of the 2011 junior achievement course was the ***Economics of Staying on in School.***

Emphasis was placed on challenging students' attitudes and perceptions of the value of education.

The students were pleased with the discussions which took place during the six week course covering topics such as; lifestyle choices, the economy, employment, immigration, life-long-learning, and personal career ambitions.

Festivals & Special Events

The 1st Clondalkin Village Festival took place on 12th June. Although the weather was not that great for the occasion, the event managed to attract a large crowd. Overall the event was well received by the public.

The Lucan Festival took place in September, with a variety of fundraiser events taking place before-hand, such as a Pub Quiz, Talent Competitions, Bingo and so on. The 2011 Palmerston Festival took place 21st June- 26th June

Deansrath Family Festival 20th & 22nd May 2011 was hosted by St. Ronan's Community Centre and Clondalkin Youth Services.

In addition to the Council's programme of activities for the Bealtaine Festival 2011, the community team also assisted many active retired groups in organising and delivering events.

Events included; cycling in Clondalkin, 55+ Fun Day in Waterstown Park in Palmerston, Tea Dance in Newcastle, and Dawn Chorus in Rathcoole.

Other special events where the community team assisted various community groups included; Halloween events, Griffeen Parent & Toddler 1st Anniversary, several Annual Christmas Parties, Teddy Bear's Picnic, Dublin Fire Brigade fire-fighting display, Griffeen Women's Group Celebration event, Sport & Fun taster activities for active retired groups, etc.

MacUilliam Estate.

A Family Day took place on the 10th September and was very successful. Volunteers from the Estate helped out, activities included fun and games on the MUGA, bouncy castles, face painting and planting in the community garden.

Older People

The community team continue to provide support to older people. The team are actively working with local representatives to establish new active aged groups and continue to support the more recently established groups such as Newcastle RAMS and Clondalkin Active Retirement Association.

Newcastle RAMS, established in late 2010, is a men's social group with a growing membership of approximately 70.

Clondalkin Active Retirement Association also established in late 2010, is a mixed gender social group, and has increased its membership to approximately 240.

St. Dominic's DAMS was established in mid 2011 at Dominic's Community Centre, Tallaght. DAMS is a men's social group with a membership of approximately 20.

St. Mark's Silver Surfers was established in early 2011 and is a mixed gender social group. St. Mark's Silver Surfers' membership now stands at approximately 140. The Association operates out of several community facilities in the Tallaght area, offering its members a five-days-a-week programme of activities.

All of these voluntary community active aged groups are affiliated to Active Retirement Ireland and provide an extensive programme of activities and events to their membership.

Programme activities and events include; information talks, table tennis, bowling, board games, quizzes, bingo, snooker, computers, swimming, art, cycling, walking, pitch-n-putt, gardening, singing & dancing, Poetry Reading, keep-fit, PAL fitness exercises, cookery, restoration works, environmental works, annual Christmas party, tea dances, Charity fundraisers. Cultural Outings, mini breaks, and holidays.

Some of the groups are also engaged in intergenerational projects, such as; St Mark's Silver Surfers & Jobstown Youth Service;
Newcastle RAMS and St. Finian's National School;
Newcastle RAMS and Rathcoole Community College,
Newcastle RAMS and St. Finian's Montessori.

St. Ronan's Community Centre and Clondalkin Youth Service are currently providing taster intergenerational events.

Liscarne Oasis provides Day Care services, Meals-on-Wheels and an extensive programme of activities / events.

The community team also support other active aged projects, such as; Palmerston Active Retirement Association, Palmerston Day-care Centre, Knockmitten 55+ Club and Bawnogue 55+ Club.

Community & Voluntary Groups

The community team provided ongoing support to a variety of groups, clubs, organisations and associations

Fettercairn Community Garden

Work is ongoing in the garden, Fettercairn Little Ones and local children have planted a variety of vegetables while the older people work on developing a herb garden. The garden is open to all the Community 9-5pm.

Neighbourhood Centres

The Community Services Department continued to support and assist a number of Neighbourhood Centres. Kiltalown Neighbourhood Centre was one centre that was upgraded. A new wall and railings was placed around the centre, shutters were replaced and a new play area was installed in the rear of the garden.

South Dublin Community Services Department continued to assist, support and manage the numerous Community Projects and Community Facilities responding to the needs identified by local communities and providing a wide range of social recreational and education activities and services. These Community facilities also offer employment opportunities through Community Employment and Jobs Initiative for a significant number of local residents employed in Management, centre attendants and childcare positions.

ARTS OFFICE

The Civic Theatre presents an annual programme of Drama, Contemporary Dance, Ballet, Children's Theatre and Musicals. Over 32,000 patrons attended the theatre in 2011. The theatre improved its customer services in 2011 with the redevelopment of its website and the introduction of an online ticket purchasing facility.

The theatre in partnership with the Arts Office produced the fifth year of Tenderfoot, a programme of playwriting and stagecraft for young people in South Dublin County. Over 40 young people participated in the programme in 2011. Also in partnership with the Arts Office, the Civic Theatre established a 9 month Theatre Residency with Director and Scriptwriter Paul Meade.

- RUA RED South Dublin Arts Centre achieved over 109,000 visitors during 2011 in exhibition visits and workshop participation. The 2011 programme focused on a number of exhibitions supporting the development of younger artists, alongside event-based exhibitions linked to the digital arts festival GLITCH and the first exhibition at RUA RED to show contemporary craft and partner with the Year of Craft celebrations.
- South Dublin County Council wins Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Governments Award for Sustaining the Arts for its Tallaght Young Filmmakers group. Tallaght Young Filmmakers, is a youth-led awarding winning group of after school filmmakers, ages 14 – 19, initiated by young people with the support of South Dublin County Council. The group is provided meeting space via support from RUA RED, South Dublin Arts Centre.
- South Dublin County Council installed the 'Marker Tree', an illuminated sculptural work at the Kingswood Interchange and launched a new on-line public art database of South Dublin County Public Art.
- The new South Dublin County Arts Development Strategy 2011-2015 was presented to the Arts, Culture, Libraries, Education and An Ghaeilge Strategic Policy Committee.
 1. South Dublin was the lead partner in two successful applications for funding under Arts Council Local Partnership Scheme to:
 - Research artistic practices of professional artists from new communities in South Dublin County and Dublin City Council areas with Social Inclusion and arts partners.
 2. Develop a Youth Arts interactive events map for young people in the Dublin Area in partnership with National Youth Council of Ireland, Temple Bar Cultural Trust and Dublin City Council.
- Eight Individual Artist Bursary Awards which support innovation and the development of creative practice were awarded in 2011 across all disciplines. Two awards were made under the *Annette Halpin Memorial Award For Young Musicians* and two awards were made under the *Project Award 2010 - Amateur, Voluntary and Community Arts*.
- NOISE Festivals provided a platform for young people to show their work in film, dance and music in a programme that is linked to the NOISE website which is an online cultural space for young people in the County.

- A new dance residency The Architecture of Human Encounter was created in 2011, in partnership with RUA RED South Dublin Arts Centre and dance artist Louise Costelloe.
- The Arts Office in partnership with the Adelaide Meath and National Children's Hospital hosted national Arts in Health Seminar.
- A Creative Enterprise Strategy was presented to Arts SPC. The strategy included a survey of arts and crafts creatives in the County and the development of the Creative Village Initiative.
- The Creative Campus is established in the Big Picture multi media centre. Creative Campus is a project involving artists who specialise in using electronic and computing technologies creatively. Emerging artists were mentored by professionals on the creation of a site-specific installation/performance work.
- Creative Schools Initiative: The Arts Office has been working with secondary school teachers throughout the County to develop creative and cultural practices across the curriculum for teaching and learning. A professional development day was held in 2011 for teachers, TY coordinators, home school liaisons, school completion programme coordinators and other informal educators as well as artists. Participants attended practical workshops in dance/movement, music, visual arts and IT to explore ways in which creative techniques could be employed to promote active learning across many subjects including history, English, foreign languages, arts, geography, and IT. Participants have since utilized these techniques in their own practice.
- CONTACT Studio is a recording studio based in RUA RED Arts Centre in Tallaght. Established by the Arts Office in 2009, it is an accessible, affordable space that allows artists, youth groups and community groups in the County to work in a friendly, professional environment. The studio provides opportunities for people of all ages to spend time in a professional recording studio, whether it be recording their own work or music they have learned, or taking part in workshops on song writing, music technology and music production. The studio technician also collaborates with artists such as Tallaght Young Filmmakers on projects where music or recorded sound is required, and provides technical and developmental support to events and festivals around the county, including Noise Sounds, Noise Flicks, the Free Spirit Festival and Unwrapped. CONTACT Studio works closely with South Dublin's Youth Arts Coordinator, South Dublin's Music Education Service, and local youth and arts organisations, in developing and delivering opportunities and activities in the arts, and related fields. This work includes Suburban Sounds, a music course for young people aged 14 – 18 that runs for 6 months each year, and a digital media group of young people aged 14 – 18, which has recently formed out of a radio workshop in collaboration with Comhairle na nÓg and Curious Broadcast.
- Ruaille Buaille Lucan Children's Music Festival 2011 was enjoyed by 3,500 children who participated in music workshops and performances and attended concerts. The festival featured the Irish Chamber Orchestra as music ensemble in residence and introduced opera performances for children to the festival programme. The festival is a partnership programme with South Dublin Libraries

- Unwrapped 2011 is a celebratory winter event held in and around Chamber Square, Tallaght. It marked the lighting of the Tallaght Christmas Tree and consisted of a specially made landscape of images, music, and performance and celebrated work created by local artists and groups of all ages. It also included specially commissioned work by professional artists. It is a partnership initiative of South Dublin County Council; South Dublin Music Education Service, South Dublin Libraries; Tallaght Community Arts; Alternative Entertainments; RUA RED, South Dublin Arts Centre; CONTACT Studio; and the Civic Theatre, Tallaght. Unwrapped was initiated through this partnership in 2010 and the partnership is currently exploring making it an annual event.
- ANIMOTION Youth Dance Company performed in the NOISEmoves Youth Dance Festival. Company members also took part in workshops with Irish Modern Dance Theatre and the National Dance Company of Wales.
- South Dublin Music Education Service is continuing to grow as one of the most significant arts resources in the county delivering music tuition to a number of second level and primary schools in the county. 245 young people are currently participating in instrumental and vocal tuition. The Music Education Partnership brings together music providers, educators and local development agencies in a steering group which connects music interests in the county. In 2011 a survey of music education provision in the County and mapping of services was completed.

The Arts Office continues to advocate for youth and schools based arts development in national and international settings. The following took place in 2011:

- Publication of youth led work carried out with Tallaght Young Filmmakers in *Practice Journal*, November 2011
- Presentation of 'From the Ground Up: Tallaght Young Filmmakers as a Local Media Literacy Initiative' at the International Conference on Media and Culture in Small Nations Cardiff School of Creative and Cultural Industries, University of Glamorgan, June 2011
- Creative Engagement, Supports for Arts in Second Level Schools, National Association of Principals and Deputy Principals Conference on Creative Engagement, February 2011

Social Inclusion

The Social Inclusion Unit continued to coordinate and support the Council's Social Inclusion Measures Sub-Group of the CDB, Intercultural Working Group and the South Dublin County Social Inclusion Network.

List of Achievements for Social Inclusion Unit 2011:

- Social Inclusion Week 2011 – Spotlight on Volunteerism
- Celebration – Social Inclusion through the Performing Arts
- Launch of South Dublin Migrant Integration Forum
- Establishment of Volunteer Corps
- Series of World Café Discussions in St Ronan's Community Centre
- Soccer Blitz for Primary Schools and Secondary Schools (European Week against Racism)

- Competition to convey your own personal message against racism
- Festival of Colours Event
- Awards Ceremony for European Week against Racism Competition
- Fettercairn Horse Project towards Integration
- 2nd Level Schools Social Inclusion Competition
- Golf Programme towards Integration
- Grow Your Own for the Unemployed in Sean Walsh Park, Tallaght
- Launch of Bealtaine Festival
- Closing Ceremony for Bealtaine Festival in Tallaght Stadium including prize giving ceremony for the winners in the Bealtaine Festival Competition "Push the boat out whatever the sea"
- Art Workshops for residents in Nursing Homes
- How to Cook on a Budget?
- Creative Writing Classes
- Bealtaine Festival Competition
- Internship Scheme
- Literacy Awareness Training
- Link on Website for European Year of Volunteering
- Tea Dance
- Indian Dance Workshop
- Art Workshops for disabled people
- Digi Art Classes

Comhairle na nÓg South Dublin

2011 was an exciting year for South Dublin Comhairle na nÓg. Comhairle is going from strength to strength working in partnership with Catholic Youth Care and Foroige. Comhairle members represented South Dublin on national consultations on Junior Certificate and Crime. Comhairle also took on to promote Comhairle na nÓg throughout the County. Eight members of Comhairle attended Dáil na nÓg in Croke Park in November 2011, with Tracy Musitongo elected on to the Dáil nÓg Executive to represent South Dublin County.

Our AGM took place in Tallaght Stadium in October, opened by Mayor Caitriona Jones, with Presentations from Moodwatchers, some sport and fun activities followed by workshops on Mental Health, Cigarette and Alcohol Use, Bullying and Peer Pressure, Anti Social Behaviour agreed by and affecting young people in our County. Over 100 young people from Countywide attended on the day.

Comhairle meetings take place fortnightly with 24 young people attending and representing their Electoral area.

During 2011 our Comhairle worked on a number of projects to promote the Think Local Campaign, promoting employment for young people. A Poster Competition took place to design a poster to encourage young people in our County to Think Local. Comhairle also organised a campaign to ensure young people turning 18 were registered to vote.

Sport and Recreation Office

Employment of the sport specific development officers –

- Rugby in the community, x 2
- Cricket in the community, x 1 with the an extra position via the Jobbridge Programme
- Football in the community x 4

These officers deliver coaching and training to both, primary and secondary schools, community groups, and sports clubs right across the County. They assist to develop club structures and promote the ethos of fair play, and sports inclusion among their various disciplines.

- Schools Cross Country – engaging 16 primary school’s from across the County
- Soccer Blitz for Primary Schools and Secondary Schools (European Week against Racism)
- Older Adult “Get on your bike” programme
- PALS – Physical Activity Leaders Training for volunteer leaders in Active Retirement / older adult groups
- Integration Dance programme for Older Adults in conjunction with transition year students.
- Summer Projects Programme for the month of July – Sports Activity Days and so on
- Fettercairn Horse Project towards Integration
- National Play Day – A day to promote play within the County, attended by approximately 10,000 people. Wide range of family friendly activities on offer for all to participate in and enjoy.
- National Recreation Week – Week of activities targeting young people in the community, positively engaging youth in physical activity.
- Spooky Walk – Event which attracted in excess of 8,000, celebrating Halloween in a fun and safe environment.
- Paralympic Tournament held in Tallaght Stadium – St Patrick’s Day Cup
- Easter Treasure Hunt in each of the Regional Parks
- Contributed towards the ‘Summer Fest’ for Round Towers Clondalkin
- Contribution to An Garda Síochána Primary School’s Basketball programme.
- Commended for the “South Dublin Gladiators” by the Chambers Ireland – Excellence in Local Government Awards 2011
- Schools Golf Programme towards Integration
- Launch of Bealtaine Festival
- Closing Ceremony for Bealtaine Festival in Tallaght Stadium
- Disability Awareness Training in partnership with SDCSP
- School’s Orienteering Programme – Corkagh Park
- Late Night Leagues, 3 venues, Tallaght, Clondalkin & Collinstown
- Xcessible Leisure Centre Week

South Dublin County Sports Partnership (SDCSP)

The principal goal of the SDCSP is “to increase opportunities for participation in sport/ physical activity among the community”. In particular among certain target groups such as young children, teenage girls and women in general, disabled people, disadvantaged (socio-economic), older people and ethnic minorities.

The Sports Partnership carries out a number of other functions to achieve its goal such as:

- Facilitating information to and from clubs and groups, the Irish Sports Council and national governing bodies of sport (NGBs)
- Providing information on grant availability, policy, events, clubs and facilities
- Training coaches and leaders in a wide variety of fields such as first aid, code of ethics, fund raising and PR

- Implementation of programmes such as the Buntús programme in preschools and primary schools.
- The Sports Partnership also provides some financial assistance to local groups to help them achieve their aims but this is not regarded as a core function

2011 saw the continued roll out of the Buntús programmes where training and equipment was provided to crèches and primary schools to help teachers and leaders in their efforts to get children physically active. To date over 1,100 teachers from 70 primary schools with access to 18,500 children have received games training and free equipment. A further 62 preschools have come onto the programme.

SDCSP partnered with the other 3 Dublin Sports Partnerships (Fingal, Dún Laoghaire Rathdown & Dublin City) to jointly organise a club development seminar in Croke Park. 160 delegates from many different sports and clubs attended the seminar which featured expert presentations on fundraising, strategic planning and volunteering.

Bike Week – many events took place countywide for Bike Week in June with the highlight being a cycling Flashmob at Walkinstown Roundabout, which stopped traffic on Ireland's busiest roundabout for 3 minutes. Watch it on the archive section of our website www.sdcsp.ie

Ramble Aid – a charity walk for Concern, took place in October to coincide with National Trails Day. Starting from Thomas Davis GAA on Kiltipper Road, Tallaght the walk went through Kiltipper and onto Bohernabreena Reservoir. It is planned that an annual Ramble Aid event will be held to raise funds for local causes.

The Link 2B Active programme launched in South Dublin County in 2009 which seeks to get reduced rates in local leisure facilities for people who are out of work continues. By the end of the year over 1,500 people were participating on the programme and the Irish Sports Council had launched a national rollout through all the Sports Partnerships countrywide.

SDCSP provided approximately €10,000 in local grant assistance to local sports clubs and community groups to help them in their efforts to promote increased participation in sport and physical recreation. A full listing of clubs is available from the Sports Partnership office.

The 3rd Amateur Sports Award sponsored by SDCSP in partnership with the Echo Newspaper and the Louis Fitzgerald Hotel were held in December and this event is now regarded as a highlight in the sports community agenda.

Tallaght Stadium

2011 was another momentous year for Tallaght Stadium. Tenants Shamrock Rovers started their new season in early March and concluded in October having won the Airtricity League championship for the second year in a row, and also won the Setanta Cup at Tallaght Stadium itself in May.

St. Patrick's Day was officially celebrated in Tallaght for the first time in several years but rather than marching through the old village, sports clubs dancers, marching bands and a variety of community groups marked the occasion in front of their friends and families in the Stadium The event was free of charge and almost 8,000 people turned up on the day.

Beat 24, an event featuring marching bands from all over the country took place in July. That same month Shamrock Rovers also participated in the Champions League. Later, they managed to become the first Irish club to reach the group stages of the Europa League and this brought Tottenham Hotspur from the English Premier League to Tallaght and created great excitement.

Heineken Cup holders Leinster brought the oval ball to Tallaght Stadium when they held an open training session there in August. The gates were open to whoever wished to attend and almost three thousand people turned up to watch the Leinster superstars train. The Team promised that they would come back in 2012 and possibly play a pre-season friendly there.

The senior Irish soccer team held two open training sessions in Tallaght and once again, people were able to come to the Stadium free of charge and see their heroes training. These included local stars Robbie Keane and Richard Dunne.

There were also numerous community groups and organisations who held meetings, seminars and conferences in the Stadium facilities. This type of business in Tallaght Stadium shows every sign of growing into a substantial stream of activities, both commercial and community-based.

South Dublin Libraries

South Dublin Libraries offer civic spaces for all citizens to read, relax, surf and learn at every stage of their lives. The contemporary model of public libraries no longer sees libraries as warehouses for books but as lifelines to curated information and as places offering escape routes down the most extraordinary avenues. The growing importance of the library building as a public space – a community living room in many ways – is now creating a new model for the delivery of service. In today's post-Gutenberg world the scarce resource is knowledge and insight, with libraries serving as local nerve centres for this information in all its many forms.

While honouring the book is one of the driving principles of the County's library service with almost half a million books available to citizens – a range of other cultural phenomena are celebrated and offered across the library service. During 2011 over four thousand programmed learning and cultural events were delivered to communities – many of them by library staff. Long opening hours which include four late night openings across six days each week facilitates easy access to libraries.

During 2011 the centenaries of the County's two Carnegie Libraries in Clondalkin and Whitechurch were celebrated linking the continuing tradition of library use in South Dublin back to the early days of the twentieth century.

South Dublin Libraries in association with the Information Technology Department won the Best Use of External Communication for Connecting the Past: Mapping South Dublin in Time at the LAMA awards in 2011. In addition the libraries website was shortlisted in the Irish Language and Local categories of the 2011 Ireland eGovernment Awards.

Over the past three years the usage of libraries across the County and the usage of the award winning library website has grown exponentially. In 2011 over one and a half million people visited South Dublin Libraries. During the year over two and a half million hits were recorded on the library website with areas such as health information, homework help, business information, heritage material and the library catalogue handling significant traffic. This level of increased demand across the service is managed against a backdrop of reduced staffing levels and tightened budgets through the implementation of innovative technologies and streamlined business processes. Self service facilities were introduced in both Clondalkin and Lucan Libraries in 2011 and both libraries were remodelled to accommodate these new facilities.

Key Indicators for 2011

Number of Libraries	7
Number of Mobile Libraries	4
Number of Visitors	1.5 million
Number of items borrowed	1.2 million
New items added to stock	71,043
Number of programmed events	4,072
Number of internet sessions	238,157
Web Hits	2,581,354
WiFi sessions	11,615

Libraries as Springboards to Literacy

The national strategy 'Literacy and Numeracy for Learning and Life' (Department of Education and Skills, 2011) which was launched in July 2011 recognises the role played by public libraries in the support of family literacy and numeracy – particularly in the early childhood years. In response to this strategy document South Dublin Libraries developed a range of literacy and numeracy programmes for parents and children, child care professionals and primary school teachers. A once off €40,000 grant from the Department Environment Community and Local Government was dedicated entirely to the purchase of literacy specific reading material and software for libraries and schools. **Ready2Read**, a programme for pre-school children and their parents began in September 2011 and is ongoing. **Math's Eyes**, a collaborative project with IT Tallaght engaged with over 600 primary school children in a numeracy programme and advice and training was delivered to over thirty primary schools (including teachers and parents) on literacy and numeracy. An extremely successful **Summer Reading Challenge** 'Going Places With Books' was also delivered during 2011 designed to overcome the traditional 'summer holiday dip' in reading motivation and attainment. **Touch Type Read Spell** – a multi-sensory computer learning course for those with dyslexia, reading, writing and spelling difficulties, and other learning differences was also delivered in Libraries with library staff delivering this one to one course to children and adults.

App Delivered for Smartphone Access to Library Services

Recognising the growth in the use of smartphones South Dublin Libraries developed a Smartphone-friendly means of doing business with the library service 24/7 designed to facilitate interaction with the most frequently accessed elements such as renewing loans, searching for books and DVDs and reserving items. A web application which works on all smartphones was developed during 2011. This was made available to customers during the year and is now a heavily used element of library online services.

Library Services for local Business and Enterprise

November 2011 was designated Business Month across South Dublin Libraries. During the month new business information collections were launched and over fifteen seminars, talks and workshops were delivered across Lucan and the County Library – topics included Business Idea Generation, Sustainable Business Opportunities and Life Coaching. This initiative was delivered in association with the Sustainable Business Executive from the Chamber of Commerce. One event 'Check Out a Champion' offered people a chance to spend time with experts in various fields including business planning, marketing, financial control and social media. Similar sessions are planned for 2012 as positive feedback indicated a need for advice clinics.

As part of this initiative we conducted a survey on access to business information with local firms and businesses. Local businesses voiced several concerns in relation to finding information – particularly the issue of the usefulness of the information they find. Many report receiving out of date or incorrect information and find that searching online can be a frustrating experience.

Libraries, as curators of information, have a particular skill in the area of information provision and as a result it was decided to develop business specific book collections in all branch

libraries and to further develop online resources for entrepreneurs, businesses and people seeking employment. Vision-Net, a website which provides company information for Ireland and the United Kingdom is now available from the library website at www.southdublinlibraries.ie and is being heavily used. Access to this site is available free of charge as consortium costs have been negotiated with other library services in order to deliver high end services at reduced costs.

eBooks – South Dublin Libraries taking the lead

Demand for eBooks grew significantly during 2011 as more and more people began reading books on devices such as smartphones, tablet computers and eReaders. The eBook service which is available through the libraries website offers library members a seamless way to borrow digital books across a wide category of interests. South Dublin Libraries have also joined the world of digital publishing and now have twenty one local heritage titles available in eBook and digital audio format which have all been published in-house – a first for Irish public libraries.

Listening and Communicating with Social Media

South Dublin Libraries continued to harness social media and Web 2.0 tools through Facebook, Twitter, Google+, Pinterest, YouTube, Flickr, Audioboo and a range of other digital communications platforms in 2011. The Library service is now using social media not only as a marketing tool but also to monitor what local communities are saying about services on offer. As the world becomes increasingly mobile and interconnected the library service in South Dublin is keeping pace and engaging with local communities in a more immediate manner than ever before.

TEDxTallaght 2011

In 2011 South Dublin County Libraries again presented an event under the internationally recognised TED organisation whose mission is "ideas worth spreading." The program is designed to give communities, organisations and individuals the opportunity to stimulate dialogue across many themes at the local community level. TEDxTallaght, organised and planned by South Dublin Libraries was held at The Victory Centre, Firhouse. Speakers on the night were Róisín Heneghan of Heneghan Peng Architects, Hillary Kenna of IADT & designer of the iPad App for T.S. Eliot's 'The Wasteland', and Shane Gillen, Mentalist who spoke on the Anatomy of Perception. On the night, #TEDxTallaght trended on Twitter in Ireland. In July 2011 the County Library also streamed a live simulcast to TED Global which was broadcast from Edinburgh and was attended by people from across the country.

Showcasing Local and National Craft - Year of Craft 2011

Modified Expression, an exhibition themed on books and the craft of writing, visited the County Library as part of the County's Year of Craft celebrations. Focusing on the book, curator Angela O'Kelly (one of Ireland's internationally recognised jewellers) invited emerging and established artists whose work is inspired by the written word or by the physical structure of the book to create artworks inspired by the work of several contemporary authors. The Modified Expression exhibition comprised of a fascinating collection of artworks demonstrating each artist's personal interpretation of the book and attracted huge audiences to the library during November.

In 2011 the County Library also delivered a year along craft program celebrating the Year of Craft. Events focused on every aspect of hand craft and there was a huge interest in all of the workshops, with waiting lists for most activities. December saw the first Christmas Craft Fair being held in the library which showcased local craft and due to popularity this fair is scheduled to become an annual event.

Carnegie 100 Years Later celebrating the centenaries of Clondalkin and Whitechurch Libraries

Whitechurch and Clondalkin Libraries first opened their doors to local communities in 1911. Funding for the original buildings came from philanthropist Andrew Carnegie whose philosophy centred on the provision of public libraries to provide ordinary working people with the opportunity to access books, newspapers and the possibility of educational improvement. The single most important element for Carnegie was that the library service would be provided freely for all citizens. One hundred years later the buildings still stand at the heart of their communities and are now more heavily used than ever before. To commemorate these centenaries an exhibition was produced on the life and times of TJ Byrne one of Ireland's iconic architects who was the architect for both buildings.

Miriam Meets and Lyric FM from the County Library

On the invitation of the library service RTE's 'Miriam Meets' radio programme was recorded in the County Library in March 2011 before a live audience of book club members from across the County. The radio interview featured author Roddy Doyle and his parents Rory and Ita who have long associations with Tallaght and it was the first ever live recording of the show and helped strengthened the national profile of the local library service.

To mark the donation of its CD catalogue to Irish public libraries, the Lyric Fm Lunchtime Classics concert was broadcast from the County Library on Thursday 12th May. During her show presenter Liz Nolan introduced artists from the lyric label including pianist Una Hunt, harpist Anne-Marie O'Farrell and the internationally renowned soprano, Celine Byrne.

Following on from the success of this event Lyric FM's Education and Outreach Department returned to the County Library in November 2011 to deliver its "Making Radio" residency to second level schools. The week long residency offered students the opportunity to get involved in classical music radio production. With the aid of a mobile radio studio students learned skills of presentation, broadcast technology, editing, research and scripting for radio. Students from St Paul's Secondary School, Walkinstown, Old Bawn Community School Tallaght, and Colaiste de hÍde, Tallaght participated in the compilation of a radio programme which they themselves researched, scripted, engineered, produced and presented as their own show in the style of RTE Lyric fm.

Once Upon a Time in Tallaght, Tinker Tales and Traveller Stories

In September 2011 South Dublin Libraries published 'Once Upon a Time in Tallaght' a book of Traveller stories by Mervyn Ennis with evocative black and white photographs by Alen MacWeeney. Mervyn Ennis has a unique record of working with and supporting Travellers in the County and his stories demonstrate his empathy with them and their situation. The book records an important element of our County and national heritage and over one thousand copies were purchased during 2011.

Housing

Housing Construction Programme

The Multi-Annual Housing Construction Programme included the following in 2011:

- 190 Respond Voluntary Units at Springfield, Tallaght.
- 4 newly built Council dwellings completed at Fortunestown, Tallaght.
- An infill housing development at Taylors Lane, Ballyboden commenced on site in July 2011 for the construction of 9 social housing units
- A sheltered housing scheme under the Capital Assistance Scheme at Valhalla, Clondalkin, comprising 10 units of accommodation and one office unit commenced on site in August 2011 and is scheduled for completion in early 2013
- Total Voluntary Housing Stock in the County at the end of 2011 was 1,143 units.

Sales Scheme

8 Tenant Purchasers completed the purchase of their homes through the Tenant Purchase Scheme in 2011. A total of 223 applications were made in 2011 with 32 under the 1995 Sales Scheme and 191 under the 2011 Sales Scheme. 34 House Purchase Loan applications were made to SDCC, with 3 mortgages advanced in 2011.

Rents Section

The Rent income for 2011 was €19.93 million. The Council encourages any of our tenants who are experiencing difficulties in paying their rent to contact the rents section to enable the Council to assist our tenants in putting a payment plan in place to clear outstanding arrears. There are over 10,000 accounts monitored by Rents Section. Statements are sent to our tenants on a quarterly basis showing their payments and any balance outstanding.

Part V

The Council maintained negotiations with all relevant parties during 2011 in respect of all new residential development in the County. This was for the purposes of monitoring development progress and to reach agreement for compliance with Part V of the Planning & Development Act 2000.

Social Housing Leasing Initiative.

During 2011, the Council processed expressions of interest in leasing options from property owners in respect of 272 units. 133 of these units were made available for inspection for compliance with leasing standards.

A total of 110 privately owned properties were procured in 2011 under the terms of the Social Housing Leasing Initiative and the properties were allocated to persons on the social housing lists. This included 20 properties which were sourced by housing applicants under the ASH (Applicant Sourced Homes) leasing initiative.

Rental Accommodation Scheme

The Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS) continued to be implemented during 2011 with the completion of 210 transfers. At the end of 2011 a total of 1,442 families had been transferred to the scheme.

Standards in Private Rented Accommodation

The inspection of private rented accommodation under the Housing (Standards for Rented Houses) Regulations 2008 (as amended) continued during 2011 when 877 properties were inspected. The inspection programme is managed by the RAS Unit in Housing. Inspections are carried out by the Environmental Health Officers who also enforce the standards. A total of 4,320 properties have been inspected during the period between the 1st January 2006 and the 31st December 2011.

Dealing with Anti-Social Behaviour

The Anti Social team responded to 970 complaints in 2011 and the following actions were carried out:

House calls made	1,826
Interviews conducted	422
Warnings given	79
Eviction notice served	12
Clinics held (Attended by Community Garda & Allocations Support Officers)	224

Work continued on the elimination of anti-social black spots. The type of works undertaken included

- Installation of CCTV
- Re-enforcement of walls
- Installation of railings
- Elimination of laneways
- Additional lighting within estates
- Stub wall construction
- Installation of anti-vandal mechanisms
- Re-instatement of areas
- Improvement of areas prone to dumping
- Landscape design and development
- Ground cover redevelopment
- Footpath repairs
- Enhancement of entrance areas (improve access)
- Improvements through Painting programmes
- Boundary treatments and fencing Improvements

Estate Management

The Estate Management Section continues to assist in the overall running and management of the Community Centre for Senior Citizens in Liscarne Estate, Clondalkin.

There are approximately 60 Residents Associations / Groups in Local Authority Estates throughout the County with whom the Estate Officers are in regular contact.

New Estates

The work of enhancing community development within Balgaddy and MacUilliam is currently being undertaken by the Estate Officer, Community Worker and residents from the Local area. Various events were held throughout the year which fostered community development. This has been further helped by the establishment of the Balgaddy Working Together Group.

Liaison Committees

The liaison committees comprise of Community representatives, the Gardai and various representatives of the Council. The purpose of these committees is to ensure an integrated response to local service delivery. The Liaison Committee Initiative was established in 2007 in the estates of MacUilliam, Daletree and Balgaddy.

Housing Projects

- 287 housing units were completed ready for allocation, 48 of these were completed under the energy efficiency programme.
- Timber framed windows, doors, fascia boards and side gates were painted in 94 housing units in the Lucan/Clondalkin Area. These units were located in Arthur Griffith Court, Arthur Griffith Park, Cannonbrook Park, Sarsfield Park and St Finian's Avenue. Other works included repair/replacement of fascia boards, replacement of window sashes and cleaning/repair of gutters.
- Timber framed windows, doors, fascia boards and side gates were painted in 74 housing units in the Tallaght/Rathfarnham Area. These units were located in Whitechurch View, Park, Court and Green, Walk, Lawn, Glenmore Park and Green.
- 76 dwellings were refurbished under Phase 3 of Council's Refurbishment Programme in Cushlawn, Tallaght.

Adopt Best Practice in Estate Management

- 21,768 maintenance responses were carried out during 2011
- Average cost per maintenance response €305
- 19 Fire damaged houses re-instated in 2011
- Windows and doors replaced in 193 houses, average replacement cost of €5,180.

Traveller Accommodation Unit

- 31 Traveller families were accommodated by South Dublin County Council.
- New Library Service opened in Lynch's Park Community Centre. The Mobile Library continues to visit other Traveller Specific Developments.
- 8 new housing units were completed at Coldcut Road, Clondalkin.

The Housing Welfare (Social Work) Section

The Housing Welfare Section received 282 referrals in 2011. 51% of these referrals came from other sections within the Council and 49% were from external sources. The team has continued to support tenants who are experiencing difficulties that are impacting on their tenancies such as home management problems, rent arrears, parenting difficulties and other complex issues.

Homeless Services

- A new Homeless Service Assessment and Placement Unit was established in 2010 to work specifically with homeless applicants included or seeking inclusion on the Council's Homeless Register. January 2011 saw the extension of the Homeless Services Unit to include the emergency bed placement function. During 2011, approximately 700 new homeless persons / households presented to SDCC requiring, and were allocated, an emergency bed placement.
- The Women's Refuge in Tallaght which has the capacity to accommodate 6 families continued to provide a full service in 2011.
- The 27 Transitional homes specifically for persons who are homeless continued to support their need in 2011.
- There were 112 applicants on the homeless register at 31/12/2011.
- 228 homeless applicants were awarded homeless priority in 2011 with 47 of the applicants being housed in 2011. During the same period, an additional 67 homeless applicants moved from temporary emergency accommodation into private rented accommodation.
- November 2010 saw the introduction of SLI (Support to Live Independently) Visiting Support Service. SLI is provided by Dublin Simon Community in partnership with the 4 Dublin Local Authorities and provides visiting support to service users moving from homelessness to independent living in the community. This service continued to progress with 41 families / individuals availing of this support service in 2011

Allocations Section

A revised Scheme Of Letting Priorities now referred to as the Allocation Scheme was adopted by South Dublin County Council on the 13th June 2011. Having regard to the most recent Assessment Of Needs Regulations and the relevant guidelines issued by the DECLG the Council has streamlined the allocation process with the introduction of a Choice Based Letting Scheme.

This is an online facility that enables all applicants on the Housing List to express an interest in all advertised properties, appropriate to their need, in order of their current position on the Housing List. This facility eliminates the longer process that depended on telephone offers and subsequent mail follow up. 45 homes were allocated under the Choice Based Letting process in 2011.

South Dublin Children's Services Committee

In 2011 South Dublin Children's Services Committee (CSC) welcomed David Walsh (HSE) as its new chairperson. A number of milestones were reached in 2011. The need for national protocols around information and data sharing has been advanced nationally. In July 2011 Minister Fitzgerald launched the protocols, "Sharing Information about Children and Families and Working Together an Interagency protocol". The Directory of Services for Frontline Staff was also launched on the day together with the Alternative Response Model evaluation. The committee also completed the development of its work plan for 2012-2013. All documents are available on the South Dublin Children's Services website. www.children.southdublin.ie

One hundred and thirty five frontline staff from thirty five agencies in South Dublin participated in training on interagency working and on sharing information. Training will continue into 2012. The process of piloting the protocols began in late 2011 as agencies were invited to submit cases for consideration to the interagency sub-group. The cases submitted show the degree of need of families and the range of services with which families engage. The Alternative Response Model pilot was evaluated and the results of the evaluation published. The work of the pilot is to be considered in the development of a national model for child protection.

South Dublin CSC looks forward to 2012 recognising the difficulties it will encounter. Nationally, continued budgetary restrictions will impact on children and families in the county.

The continued absence from the committee of personnel from the Department of Education and Skills has impacted on the work of the Education sub-group. South Dublin County has almost 140 primary and second level schools and with increased importance being given to the development of early childhood education, where there are in excess of 260 providers, a major challenge remains.

South Dublin CSC looks forward with some optimism to 2012. The completion of part of its work presents an opportunity for the learning to be disseminated nationally. The Committee is looking forward to working with the DCYA and the new Children and Family Agency in the development of the new Children and Young Persons strategy. It is also looking forward to the development of national approaches to a common assessment framework for child welfare and child protection, interagency working, information sharing and data collection.

Key Indicators

- 413 homes allocated in 2011
- 111 Transfer requests granted.
- Total Voluntary Housing stock in the County at the end of 2011 – 1,143 units.
- 23,381 maintenance requests received with 93.10% completed within target time-frames.
- Housing Maintenance budget for 2011 was €9,510,900.00
- The Rent Income for €19.93 million, and the average weekly rent was €43.72
- 1,261 live loans on our portfolio with collection of €5.84m
- 169 Local Authority dwellings were adapted under the Disabled Persons Grants Scheme in 2011 and expenditure for above was €884,864.00.
- 145 Housing Adaptation Grants for Disabled People were paid out at a total cost of €1,117,281.76 in 2011.

- 47 Mobility Aids Housing Grant Schemes were paid out at a total cost of €179,886.67 in 2011.
- 70 Housing Aid for Older People grants were paid out at a total cost of €298,664.73 in 2011.

Housing and Social Development SPC

During 2011, a number of reports and issues were discussed and considered:

- Update from New Communities Café Community Discussion 1st December
- Update on ASH (Applicant Sourced Housing) and CBL (Choice Based Lettings)
- Allocations Scheme - Report of Council Sub Group
- Report on Anti Racism Seminar
- Housing Policy Update
- Choice Based Letting/Applicant Sourced Housing Presentation
- Proposed Rent Supplement Transfer
- Halloween Update
- Housing Assessment of Need 2011
- Local Policing Fora Update
- Choice Based Letting Update
- LTACC Review
- Tallaght Sustainable Energy Community - SEC Stage II Evaluation

Architectural Services

Despite a decreasing number of capital projects, the Architectural Services Department has remained busy and productive in 2011 with an increasingly diverse range of projects and services.

- The reformatting and extension of Rowlagh Community Centre was tendered and commenced construction in 2011. The scheme, with its landmark tower, contains a dedicated crèche, dance-studios, internet café and club rooms as well as a refurbished sports hall. It will be completed in early 2012.
- A bright new extension to the Tallaght Welfare Society in Tallaght Village Green was completed this year. In a modern but restrained design, it has brought new life to this listed building in a successful partnership between South Dublin County Council and Tallaght Welfare Society.
- A community facility was designed and tendered at Ballycragh. Containing a range of community spaces, a multi-purpose hall, café and sheltered children's play area it will sit beside the existing small pond and commences on site in mid 2012.
- The direct provision of social housing units by South Dublin-managed construction projects continues to decrease as needs are now met increasingly by RAS, Leasing, Purchase, and Part V programmes. Inspections on these dwellings are carried out by Architects' staff directly and efficiently. Council Clerks of Works have also diversified into Energy-efficiency and carry out all BER and DEC evaluations for the Council.
- The Valhalla Project, a housing project designed for people with specific access needs, commenced on site in Clondalkin under the Towards Carbon Neutral Programme sponsored by the Department of the Environment. The scheme contains a wide range of renewable technologies including solar and photovoltaic collectors, ground-pumps, super-insulation and heat-exchangers. The project, a partnership with Clanmill Housing Association, will be completed in late 2012.
- 9 dwellings commenced on site at Taylor's Lane in Ballyboden. This scheme is carefully integrated into its setting and with new house-types and will be completed in early 2012.
- Housing was provided for the Travelling Community with 3 innovative dwellings at Turnpike on the Red Cow Interchange. Energy-efficient and compact, these houses were completed in mid 2011. A house for a traveller family at Cherryfield was also tendered and will commence construction in 2012.
- The Housing Refurbishment Programme continued with Cushlawn Phase 3 where work on 77 dwellings commenced in May and was completed on time in December 2011. 75 further dwellings were tendered for refurbishment and upgrading at Shancastle/Greenfort and works will start in early 2012.
- Tenders were issued on a refurbishment and energy-upgrade project for 22 apartments at Pearse Bros Park and Palmer Park, Ballyboden. Work will commence in 2012
- 6 clients who have specific access needs were accommodated in individually-designed extensions all completed in 2011 under the council Small Works Programme.

- 6,000 families had their boilers serviced by the Council in 2011 in an ongoing maintenance regime.

The refurbishment project aims to improve the quality of life for Council tenants while reducing the carbon footprint of the County. The Architectural Services Department have extended their collaboration with the Planning Department in the field of energy-efficiency with two long-term projects commencing in 2011. The Sustainable Energy Community designation for Tallaght was the successful result of a competition by the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland, submitted jointly by Planning and Architects. The Leading in Energy Action Planning programme, LEAP, is an 11-city EU project (Intelligent Energy Europe) again addressed jointly by the two departments and promoting real energy-efficiency measures and the dissemination of understanding and techniques to the larger community through development of demonstration projects. Also in partnership with the Planning Department the bright red cycle-bridge at the Grand Canal pedestrian route was completed in 2011 and is now a popular feature of this busy route. Work will continue on cycle and permeability studies in 2012.

The Architectural Services Department manages the monitoring of Dangerous Structures in the County. 82 reports and evaluations were carried out in 2011 including fires and structural collapses.

With Continuing Professional Development now a legal requirement for Architects under the Registration Section of the Building control Act 2007, training was acquired in 2011 from SEI, UCD, RIAI and 6 accredited CPD lunch-time sessions over the year. The staff of the department remain committed and flexible and look forward to new challenges in 2012.

Energy Efficiency Statement for South Dublin County Council

Overview of Energy Usage in 2011

As the second largest Local Authority in Ireland, South Dublin County Council has a large building stock, consisting of offices, libraries, depots, pump stations and so on. We have over 200 individual electricity accounts and 26 natural gas accounts (the main heating source of the Council's larger buildings). South Dublin County Council has a large fleet of vehicles, 739 in total which consume over 580,000 litres of fuel. South Dublin County Council has over 30,000 street lights.

In 2011, South Dublin County Council consumed the following in energy:

- 7,138 MWh of electricity;
- 1,534 MWh of natural gas;
- 438,296 litres of diesel
- 131,807 litres of gasoil
- 12,551 litres of petrol
- 4 litres of Bio diesel (renewable fuels)

Actions Undertaken in 2011

In 2011 South Dublin County Council set up an Energy Action Team consisting of staff, from different Departments and backgrounds. The team received Energy MAP training from SEAI and as a result prepared a Register of Energy Saving and Efficiency Opportunities. This included energy saving measures in council building stock, water pumping technology, public lighting and fleet bio fuel trials.

Energy Efficiency Projects carried out in 2011 included the following:

- Lighting audits and improvements in County Hall saving 229,154kWh
- Computer Server Virtualisation saving 7,389 kWh
- Boiler optimisation controls (carried out in 2 leisure centres not included here)
- Energy Audits and improvements in 3 Council Depots estimated saving 39,310kWh
- A detailed survey was carried out on the pumps in Esker Pumping Station, using SCADA technology. It was estimated that an energy saving of 40,800 kWh per year could be achieved by using reduced speed pump operation.
- Programmable Control System 'Streetlight-Vision' - on trial in 400 public street lights

Actions Planned for 2012

In 2012 we intend to further improve our energy performance by extending the scope of the aforementioned initiatives to include:

- Continued improvements in County Hall
- Boiler optimisation controls in County Hall
- Energy Audits and improvements in all Council Depots
- Energy Audits of all Library buildings
- Esker Pumping Station reduced speed operation installation
- Survey of all pumping stations
- Public Lighting joint Pilot Project with all Dublin Local Authorities

Municipal Renewable and Sustainable Technology Projects

In addition to the above, South Dublin County Council has been committed to the use of renewable technologies such as Solar Panels, Wood Pellet Boilers and Geothermal Heat Pumps to create energy from sustainable resources for the heating requirements of Council Buildings and help reduce their Carbon Footprint. There have been a number of initiatives carried out on Capital Works Projects undertaken by South Dublin County Council Architectural Services Department which aim to create working models of sustainable technologies which can be monitored and assessed in use for inclusion in future projects.

The technologies listed below have been incorporated into pilot projects to date:

- Evacuated tube solar panels
- Heat exchangers
- Combined heat and power plant (CHP) in Tallaght Leisure Centre
- Wood pellet boiler in St Marks Youth and Family Centre
- Energy efficient lighting
- Geothermal ground source heating in Ballyroan Library (on site)
- Photovoltaics in Valhalla sheltered housing (on site)
- Smart controls

Refurbishment and Energy Upgrade Programme

South Dublin County Council has 9,200 Dwellings in its housing stock. Since 1999, this Local Authority has concentrated on improving the structure and heating systems of the older housing stock. More than 2,000 of the older housing stock now have greatly improved cavity wall and attic insulation. 2,800 dwellings have improved efficiency heating systems. Single glazed windows were replaced with double glazed aluminium units in 900 dwellings. Where extensive refurbishment, which includes insulation, replacement windows, heating and draft proofing, is carried out, this has resulted in an average 37% reduction in energy consumption, which represents a significant improvement in these older dwellings, and has a direct benefit to tenants in reductions in utility bills and an improved quality of life as a result.

Environmental Services

The Environmental Services Department has undergone significant change in 2011. The Council ceased the provision of a waste collection service in April 2011 and this allowed for the reorganisation of the department focusing on all aspects of the public realm. The Environmental Services Department is now responsible for waste management planning and regulation, enforcement of environmental standards and bye-laws, emergency planning and response co-ordination, developing the Social Capital programme, maintenance of the public realm (including parks) and litter management. The work of the department consists of two main functions – strategic and operational.

Strategic Role

The role of the Council is now that of Waste Management Planning for the Dublin Region, in partnership with the other Dublin Authorities, and of regulation and enforcement of the waste collections market and facilities in the county through the Waste Permitting systems. The Council is responsible for ensuring that adequate waste infrastructure is in place and that policies set out in the Waste Management Plan are being implemented by waste producers and those offering waste services in the county.

In addition the Council considers legislation and policy under the following headings;

- Public Realm Management
- Waste Management Planning & Infrastructure
- Environmental Enforcement and Licensing policy
- Litter management Planning
- Environmental, Communications & Education Planning
- Parks Planning & Infrastructure
- Financial Management & Control
- Emergency Planning
- Bye-Laws

The Department also supports the policy development role of the Environment and Sport, Recreation, Community Affairs (including Parks) Strategic Policy Committees.

Operational Role

The operational role consists of the work carried out by units enforcing legislation, maintaining the public realm and enhancing the environment.

Environmental and Licensing Enforcement

The Environmental Licensing & Enforcement Section is responsible for the supervision of 283 permitted/licensed facilities/producers in the county covering Waste, Water Pollution and control, Discharge Licensing, WEEE, Paints, Packaging, Air Pollution and Organic Compounds etc.

The Council also co-operates with the EPA and Dublin City Council in the supervision of 17 Waste Licensed facilities that are located within the county, of 124 Waste Collection Operators, of which 12 are household collection service providers, which are permitted to operate and the regulation of 28 unlicensed landfills.

Activity in the Environmental Licensing and Enforcement section increased in 2011. A comparison of 2010 Versus 2011 is set out below -

Activities	2010	2011
Permit/Registered Producers	273	293
Complaints Responded to	4,470	6233
Inspections Carried out	3,389	3,523
On the Spot Fines Issued	578	832
Warnings/Statutory Notices	601	854
Legal Action -		
Prosecution for Non Payment of Fines	154	182
Prosecution of Offences Under Waste Litter/Environmental Legislation	28	17
High Court Orders/Injunctions	1	3

Waste licensing and enforcement

There are currently 23 permitted waste facilities and 4 Certificates of Registration in the County with 57 routine inspections of these facilities carried out in 2011. In addition, 43 non-routine inspections were also undertaken.

With regard to producer responsibility areas including End of Life-vehicle Producer Suppliers, WEEE and Battery producers, Plastic Bag Levy, Packaging Self-Compliers and Suspected Major Producers, Tyre Suppliers, etc. 85 routine inspections have been undertaken in 2011

Throughout 2011 the spatial mapping of the following environmental waste facilities has been completed:

- End of Life-vehicle Producer Supplier
- WEEE and Battery producers
- Tyre Suppliers
- Permitted and Registered Waste facilities
- Packaging Self Compliers
- Quarries (Extractive Industries)

Illegal Landfills and Unlicensed Waste Disposal and Recovery Sites

Under Section 22 of the Waste Management Acts 1996 as amended, an inventory and risk assessment of all non-licensed closed landfills is carried out, where disposal or recovery activities have taken place. 28 landfills in the County have been included on the EPA Register with former Council landfills at Friarstown and Waterstown included under the scope of these regulations.

Water licensing & pollution control

125 discharge to sewer licences issued in 2011 with 32 inspections carried out in relation to these. In addition, 8 discharge to water licences were also issued and inspections have been carried out in relation to each of these. Mapping of areas subject of Water Discharge Licences is in progress.

Environmental Health

Environmental Health Officers are authorised to visit, inspect, and carry out surveillance of all types of premises and facilities that are frequented by the general public. They have the power to seek closure of food premises and to seize, remove or detain foods where necessary. Their three main functions to the Environmental Services Department are under air, noise and public health and the EHO team have investigated 622 complaints in relation to these areas in 2011.

Litter Wardens

The litter warden service is now a dedicated enforcement unit comprising six Anti-Litter Wardens. These Wardens have issued 717 litter fines (On-the-spot and Direct Prosecutions) and 119 notices pursuant to the provisions of the Litter Pollution Act, 1997, as amended.

in 2011 a total of 208 prosecutions have been initiated under the Litter Pollution Act, 1997 as amended with 40 prosecutions secured.

Control of Animals & Veterinary Services

South Dublin County Council provides a service for the control of dogs under the Control of Dogs Act. The Council employs two full time Dog Wardens, the Wardens patrol the County and issue fines for offences such as keeping a dog without a licence or not keeping a dog under control. They also impound stray dogs and dogs which are surrendered by their owners. In 2011, 10,531 dog licences and 1,020 'on the spot' fines were issued.

Operating under the Control of Horses Act, in 2011 the Council impounded 307 animals and issued 20 horse licences.

The Veterinary Service, through a Service Contract with the Food Safety Authority of Ireland, is responsible for the supervision and approval of slaughterhouses, meat cutting and meat processing plants. South Dublin County Council runs the Veterinary Service on behalf of the four Dublin Local Authorities. The Veterinary Officer carries out inspections of abattoirs and meat preparation premises to ensure slaughtering standards are adhered to and animal welfare is protected. In addition, veterinary officers carry out regular inspections of the Council's Dog Pound and Horse Pound, as well as assessing stabling prior to issuing of horse licences

Derelict Sites

The Derelicts Sites Act 1990 gives the Council the powers to deal with dereliction. Notices under Section 11 of the Act can be served on owners of sites/properties deemed upon inspection to be derelict, requiring works to be carried out to render the site non-derelict.

98 initial inspections and follow-up inspections have been carried out resulting in 18 Section 11 Notices being served in 2011. Failure to carry out works may result in legal proceedings against the registered owners, or the site/property may be entered on to the Council's Derelict Sites Register making the owner liable to pay an annual percentage fee of the market value of the site.

Public Realm Maintenance

The sale of the refuse collection service allowed a reorganisation of staffing to improve the Council's response to public realm maintenance. Administrative staff freed up from the customer service and support role to the refuse collection service have been redeployed to support frontline functions within the Division as well as to other areas within the Council.

Operations Section

The new Operations Unit is a large and flexible resource that can be deployed to supplement and support the work of other Sections and/or Departments. To date, the Unit has been primarily involved in targeted cleaning and litter picking of areas

The Unit provides a clean up service on open spaces dealing with litter and fly-tipping in areas which had previously been difficult for the Council to remove due to more urgent work in other areas. This unit has collected a total of 819 tonnes of waste from public open spaces since 4 April 2011.

Cleansing Section

Daily cleaning Monday to Friday is provided in 8 town and village centre locations as follows

- Tallaght,
- Clondalkin
- Lucan
- Rathcoole
- Templeogue
- Rathfarnham
- Palmerston
- Walkinstown

The Cleansing Section services 670 litter bins. A clean up service removing litter and fly-tipping is provided around the County and the contract for the sweeping of roads and associated services is managed including–

- o A total of 7,308 km of road sweeping carried out in the full year,
- o A total of 47,000 road gullies cleaned in a full year.

The cleansing crews, handcart staff, litter bin operatives and road sweeping contractor removed a total of 6,771 tonnes of waste in 2011.

Graffiti

The graffiti crew dealt with 203 tasks throughout 2011.

Burial Grounds Section

This section provides for the maintenance of the Council's 18 Burial Grounds including grass cutting, disposal of waste, maintenance of roads and paths and maintenance of boundary walls and fences. Development works are also carried out to provide additional grave spaces within burial grounds when required. In 2011, there were 681 burials in the Council's graveyards with 319 new grave spaces sold.

Parks Section

The Parks Section maintains 1,700 hectares of public parkland, open spaces, river valleys including 5 Regional Parks, 50 Neighbourhood Parks and 14 children's playgrounds. Sports and recreation facilities are also provided. The section also undertakes routine maintenance work programmes including grass cutting, tree/shrub management, maintenance/improvement of playing facilities, playgrounds, provision of floral displays, enforcement of bye-laws and the collection of litter. 160 playing pitches are available to cater for the 90 sports clubs based in the county comprising 738 teams and approximately 16,000 players who use these pitches on a weekly basis during the playing season.

Outdoor Leisure Operations in 2011

- Griffeen Valley Park – Completion of green route cycle project with lighting and CCTV as part of the Grand Canal Green Route project.
- Corkagh Park – construction of cycle race track in association with Cycle Ireland.
- Installation of an artificial cricket crease in association with Adamstown Cricket Club
- Provision of overflow car-parks Corkagh Park
- Development of Zorbing and Outdoor Adventure, Corkagh Park
- 43,633 rounds of golf played at Grange Castle Golf in 2011 with a club membership of 500.
- Over 7,000 anglers and fishing enthusiasts visited Corkagh Park fishery in 2011.
- In 2011, 15,346 visitors from 11 countries stayed in the Camac Valley Caravan and Camping Park. Access for disabled people was significantly increased in this important tourist facility.
- Footpath repair at River Dodder
- Installation of MUGA facility at MacUilliam Estate, Fortunestown.
- Improvement and repair of the time capsule, Rathcoole Park.
- Regrading works to paths in Griffeen Valley Park to alleviate flooding issues and provide all year round access to schools and sports facilities.
- Lighting provided in St Cuthbert's Park
- Significant pruning works in Ballyowen Park
- Upgrade of natural stone wall to Hermitage Park at Ballyowen Lane.
- Improvements to floral decorations and entrances to Clondalkin Village.
- Information signage provided in parks in Lucan, Palmerston & North Clondalkin.
- Extensive boundary improvement works to parks in North Clondalkin.
- Waterstown Parks –dredging of millrace commenced in 2011
- Greenhills Park - opening of new Bowls Green for play and Improvement works to playing pitches.
- Continuation of the development of the ornamental garden at Rathfarnham Castle Park.
- Responsible for allotments in Tymon, Corkagh and Friarstown
- Green Loop Trail /An Ceangal Glas on National Trails Day, 2nd October 2011

Awards received in 2011

- Corkagh Park - winner of Best Park category, LAMA Awards 2011.
- Camac Valley Caravan and Camping Park - winner of Chambers Ireland award for Outstanding Customer Service
- Dublin Mountains Way - winner of Chamber Ireland's award for Joint Local Authority Initiative

Events held in Parks in 2011

- Business Houses annual cross country event – Tymon Park
- National Play Day, Corkagh Park
- The Green Loop, National Bike Week event, Lucan
- Spooky Walk, Corkagh Park, as part of the Halloween programme
- Christmas Wonderland event in Corkagh Park
- Funfairs in Corkagh Park, Griffeen Valley Park and Tymon Park

Intoxicating Liquor Bye-Laws

During 2011, 113 offences were prosecuted under the South Dublin County Council Bye-Laws prohibiting the consumption of Intoxicating Liquor in Public Places following detection by the Gardaí.

Social Capital Programme

The social capital programme continues to emphasise and support positive sustainable and environmental action amongst communities in the County. This section includes environmental awareness programmes and Social Credits.

Environmental Awareness Programme

The Environmental Awareness programmes provide an education and awareness role on all aspects of the environment to schools, households, communities and businesses. The programme includes the following:

- ❖ Green Schools Programme promoting all aspects of good environmental action in the areas of Litter & Waste, Water, Energy, Travel and Biodiversity.
- ❖ Anti-litter & anti-graffiti campaigns & initiatives
- ❖ Water conservation campaigns & initiatives
- ❖ Energy efficiency campaigns & initiatives
- ❖ Workshops and information sessions on all aspects of sustainable and environmental issues.
- ❖ The 7th annual Eco-Week took place highlighting many types of environmental issues.
- ❖ Dog fouling awareness campaign
- ❖ Beautiful South Dublin County Competition
- ❖ National Spring Clean in conjunction with an Taisce
- ❖ WEEE Collection days
- ❖ Battery Recycling Scheme
- ❖ Stop food waste campaign

In addition to maintaining the above campaigns the following initiatives were developed in 2011

- A [community clean-ups](#) procedure
- Master composting volunteer programme & site
- Anti-Dog fouling awareness initiative, - anti-dog fouling roadshow, a dog fouling enforcement stencil pilot programme, and a responsible dog ownership leaflet
- "How to prepare for bad weather" leaflet distributed to all householders
- Graffiti Wipeout Workshops provided for community groups and schools
- "[Stop running water](#)" Water Conservation viral video produced
- Water conservation leaflet and a Water Conservation Competition targeting householders

- 'A Guide to Water Conservation and Efficiency for Businesses' developed for businesses
- Christmas Recycling campaign – "Recycle more this Christmas"
- Schools anti-litter calendar competition

Social Credits System

The Social credit system is a very practical development of the social capital programme by the Council. The System acknowledges and rewards community groups, resident associations and schools who take positive sustainable and environmental actions within their community. The programme motivates, assists and rewards groups, who may not be involved in the enhancement of their local area, to get involved and to take ownership of their area. A total of 84 applications were received in 2011. Rewards included access to Council facilities and services.

Halloween

The Bulbs not Bonfires initiative continued in 2011. A leaflet distributed to each household outlined the dangers of bonfires and the supports and actions that the council had in place to prevent bonfires. These included free access to Civic Amenity Ballymount, organised WEE collections and a reward of flower bulbs for communities who managed to prevent bonfires.

Crews from Cleansing and Parks worked trying to remove bonfire material from the county. However there were still 351 bonfires despite the best efforts of the Council and local communities to keep their areas bonfire free.

Public Realm Works Initiative

The quality of our public realm is vital to create environments that people want to live and work in. A Public Realm works programme was established in 2011.

Works completed in 2011 included installation of CCTV at places subject to illegal dumping/anti social behaviour. The CCTV programme is monitored with the support of the FÁS Internship Programme and evidence gathered through the CCTV is used for enforcement action under the Litter Act 1997, as amended.

In addition, an inter-departmental task force examined priority sites to identify permanent innovative solutions to the problems presenting at these sites. As a result, works have been carried out at the following sites:

- Rear of Neilstown Boxing Club, Clondalkin
- Old Esker Road at Castle Riada / Moy Glas, Lucan
- Laneway at St. Aidan's School, Brookfield
- Tallaght By-Pass at Jobstown
- Bring Bank at Sarah Curran Avenue, Rathfarnham

Emergency Planning

The Major Emergency Plan and the appendices were reviewed and updated in May 2011 with tutorials conducted for senior staff. The Council continued to participate in meetings and trainings of the Eastern Region Working Group. Additionally, an Emergency Plan Desktop

Exercise was held at Tallaght Stadium on 27 January and a Major Emergency Exercise was conducted at Baldonnell Aerodrome on 3rd February.

A Major Emergency was declared in the County during October due to severe flooding and responses were activated in line with the Framework.

Fire Services

The Fire Service is a shared service operated by Dublin City Council on an agency basis for all of the Dublin Authorities. This includes the emergency ambulance service in the County. The primary fire station for South Dublin County is located at Belgard Road, Tallaght.

Development Economic & Transport Planning

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

In 2011, the Department continued to secure external funding for Projects in the areas of energy planning and sustainable travel in particular. This has enabled diversification into complementary fields of work, and provided the opportunity to bring more investment into the County.

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Monitoring of the County Development Plan and Local Area Plans

Following the Council's commitment to monitor the environmental impacts of the implementation of the South Dublin County Development Plan 2010-2016, the SEA Team and the Spatial Data Team have created an SEA Monitoring System which became operational at the start of 2011. The SEA Monitoring System is the first GIS based web application in the country to use Development Management derived Indicators to both monitor the significant environmental impacts of Development Plan policies and to begin the process of introducing meaningful indicators to monitor spatial planning. The project seeks to capture critical data at the planning decision making stage that will ultimately lead to evidence-based policy analysis and review. About half of the SEA Monitoring Indicators for the County Development Plan will be taken from the Development Management system. The other half will come from external sources such as the EPA, the Census and from other departments within the Council such as waste management indicators from Environmental Services.

Adamstown SDZ

Adamstown was designated as a 'Strategic Development Zone' in 2001. As 'Development Agency', South Dublin County Council is committed to ensuring that Adamstown is a sustainable urban community and that development occurs at a pace whereby it is supported by all necessary facilities and infrastructure.

At the end of 2011, there were 1,220 homes occupied, supported by a rail station, dedicated bus service, three schools, shops, a neighborhood park, playing pitches and other transport, drainage and utilities infrastructure. While no new residential phases commenced in 2011 work progressed on 'The Paddocks' and 'Adamstown Square' areas. Significant progress has also been made on taking completed infrastructure and developments into the Council's management. The roll out of Adamstown is ongoing within the terms of a detailed and flexible Planning Scheme.

Sustainable Travel Projects

Travel Smart Communities

South Dublin County Council developed a travel behaviour change campaign titled "*Travel Smart Communities*" in 2011. Implementation of the first phase in Lucan and Clondalkin will be carried out during 2012. The primary aim of the campaign is to encourage individuals to take alternatives to the car where these are available by providing tailored travel advice, incentives and resources. Travel advisors will target 4,000 households to offer travel advice, resources and incentives at the doorstep; Travel advisors will engage with schools to support students, parents and staff in developing sustainable travel initiatives and will provide resources and incentives as appropriate; A series of community events will also be take place between April and September 2012. Events will range from larger family events to smaller events with individual groups. All events will have a sustainable transport theme, be it to promote walking, cycling, bus or train use; and Community Walking and Cycling challenges will be held during the summer and autumn period.

Up to Date Information on Travel Smart Communities will be posted on www.travelsmartcommunities.ie



Grand Canal Green Route Extension

In July 2011, South Dublin County Council officially opened an extension of the Grand Canal Green Route to Adamstown and Griffeen Avenue. The route provides 2.5km of cycle/pedestrian paths, public lighting and CCTV, and a new canal over bridge.

The new route enhances the accessibility of the Grand Canal from surrounding residential areas and creates a first class pedestrian and cycle route between Adamstown, Lucan South and Dublin City, that facilitates a secure, safe and attractive connection for commuting and leisure purposes. A new canal overbridge at 12th Lock is a focal point of this project. The bridge was designed and constructed to the highest standard so as to reflect both the ecological sensitivities of the location and the historical engineering associations of the canal. The bridge is a striking red colour and gradually rises from the Canal bank above the Canal itself, moving through the adjoining trees on both sides. This extension project was completed by South Dublin County Council, with the support of the Department of Transport's Smarter Travel Programme.

Tallaght Cycle Network

South Dublin County Council undertook an analysis of the Tallaght Cycle Network in 2011 with the objective of identifying strategic cycling routes to link Tallaght Town Centre with neighbouring towns, villages and the city centre. It also aimed to identify ways of making the town centre more permeable to ensure that cyclists can move easily around the town and to provide a choice of routes to get cyclists to their destinations. Arising from the analysis, we have secured funding from the National Transport Authority for preliminary design work on a number of routes, including an upgrade of the existing route from Tallaght Village to Templeogue via the N81; a new route from Tallaght to Knocklyon; and for a route through the Dodder Valley from Tallaght to Dublin City.

South Dublin County Council will be a central stakeholder in the National Transport Authority's cycle analysis for the entire region. The analysis will identify and prioritise opportunities for investment in the cycle network.

Local Links

South Dublin County Council is constructing a number of walking and cycling routes to service local communities throughout the County. Routes progressed in 2011 include a walking and cycle route through Corkagh Park from Fonthill Road to Clondalkin Village; and a route in Knocklyon linking communities from Templeroan to Knocklyon District centre via the Dargle Wood area. These routes will be completed in 2012 and funding has been secured for some additional routes throughout the County. These local links will create more sustainable neighbourhoods with direct pedestrian and cyclist links to popular local destinations. The aim is to encourage people to leave the car at home for short trips by bringing more households within easy walking and cycling distances of local amenities. In many cases the proposed links are based on existing short cuts. The upgrades of these routes will enable cyclists and pedestrians, including those with decreased mobility to access safe, direct, hard surfaced routes to the local shops, schools, community centre bus, rail or LUAS stops, cycle routes or the parks / playgrounds.

Clonburris LAP and SDZ

The Clonburris area is one of the most significant areas zoned for development within South Dublin County. Two-thirds of the area was designated as a 'Strategic Development Zone' or 'SDZ' in 2006. As Development Agency, South Dublin County Council is committed to ensuring that Clonburris develops as a sustainable urban community. The roll out of Clonburris will be based on the Planning Scheme approved by An Bord Pleanála (ABP) in November 2008 and an approved Local Area Plan (LAP) adopted by the Council in April 2008. No development has commenced in Clonburris to date.

It is a requirement of the Planning Scheme that an Urban Form Development Framework (UFD) be developed for the District Centre area prior to any development. In 2011, the Project Implementation Team submitted the UFD for Clonburris District Centre to An Bord Pleanála (ABP) for determination. This document emerged from a lengthy consultation process between South Dublin County Council, landowners and stakeholders. As agreement in

relation to the final document did not emerge from this process the UDFD has been referred to An Bord Pleanála for determination. No decision has been made by ABP to date.

Smart Travel National Street Design Guide

Several Planning Department staff are at the core of a working group that also includes representation from Kildare and Fingal County and Cork City Councils. They are working together to develop a National policy and technical guidance document for the design of roads and streets in urban areas for example where the speed limit is 50kph and below. This work is being undertaken on behalf of, and is funded by, the Department of Transport, who prepared the Project Brief and is overseen by a Steering Group that also includes DECLG representation. The SDCC role includes hosting project meetings and project administration as well as technical input to and co-ordination of the draft document.

Proposed Fortunestown Local Area Plan (LAP)

The Council carried out an extensive consultation prior to the preparation of this proposed Local Area Plan. The pre-draft consultation took place during April 2011 and included four public displays which were attended by Council staff in Citywest Shopping Centre in Fortunestown. About 218 people met with the Council staff and discussed emerging issues. A total of 28 written submissions were made and the range of issues were analysed and summarised in a report presented to the Elected Representatives. The proposed LAP went on public display for six weeks from the end of August 2011. A total of 43 written submissions were received during this consultation period. Some 47% of submissions were from local residents and included three petitions signed by approximately 35 residents each. Again, the submissions were analysed and a detailed report with the Manager's responses was presented to the Elected Representative. Following a number of material changes to the Plan in November 2011, an amended proposed LAP issued.

Each stage of the LAP process was accompanied by a parallel process for Strategic Environmental Assessment and Appropriate Assessment in accordance with the respective European Directives on Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitat Assessment. An Initial Strategic Flood Risk Assessment was also prepared as part of the process.

EU IEE supported Leadership for Energy Action & Planning (LEAP)

The LEAP (Leadership for Energy Action and Planning) project is funded by the EU and is a partnership of ten organisations that includes SDCC and local authorities in Germany, Croatia, Latvia, Bulgaria, Slovenia and the UK. The project has been set up to help local authorities address the EU's energy and climate change targets for 2020, by embedding sustainable energy policy within their operations and practices. The project's wide-ranging programme of activities allows 'experienced' and 'learning' local authorities to exchange best practice and capacity-building skills. South Dublin County Council is partnered with Southampton City Council under the LEAP programme.

Involvement in this programme will result in the completion of South Dublin County's first Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP). This is being prepared in accordance with the EU 'Covenant of Mayors' protocol and is supported by CODEMA (Dublin's Energy Agency) and the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI).

The South Dublin SEAP will set out how the County can become more energy efficient across all sectors and will cover the entire geographical area of South Dublin County. The wider community including residents, businesses, community groups, schools and so on are key stakeholders in the process.

In 2011, a Baseline Emissions Inventory (BEI) of South Dublin County was completed. This Baseline Emissions Inventory provides a comprehensive starting point for the energy debate among stakeholders in South Dublin County. It is estimated that in 2006 (base year) South Dublin County used approximately 7.23 terrawatt hours (twh) and emitted approximately 2,161 ktonnes of CO₂. The second stage of the SEAP preparation process involves compiling a schedule of short, medium and long term energy actions aimed at all sectors. For each SEAP action, considerations include estimated cost, expected energy saving, potential renewable energy share and CO₂ reduction.

In 2011, citizen involvement and stakeholder network campaigns were also initiated and involve partners across local, regional and national levels. A dedicated website for SDCC's energy programme has also been launched – www.southdublinenergy.ie

Tallaght Sustainable Energy Community (SEC)

Following a competitive bid process, in 2011 the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) designated Tallaght as one of three new exemplar Sustainable Energy Communities (SEC) in Ireland. This programme, which will operate for a five year period, aims to develop Tallaght, Dublin City and Tralee as 'living laboratories' to establish a culture of energy innovation, by carrying out locally focused projects to increase energy efficiency and reduce energy costs.

To facilitate delivery of the Tallaght SEC, Municipal, Business, Community, Transport & Institutional Action Groups were set up in 2011. These action groups will co-ordinate and implement a range of projects and initiatives across all sectors (including residential and business pilot projects), with the main aim of increasing energy efficiency, reducing CO₂ emissions and saving energy costs in the Tallaght area.

SDCC Energy Management Action Plan

South Dublin County Council's commitment to becoming the focal point for energy efficiency has resulted in its engagement with the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) Energy Management Action Plan (MAP). The programme aims to prioritise energy use and efficiency across all Council functions. An inter-departmental team of Council staff has been established, comprising staff from a range of technical backgrounds; the project is supported by CODEMA (Dublin's Energy Agency).

Central to the development of the project in 2011, has been the establishment of an energy baseline of Council activities and the identification of energy efficient measures and initiatives ('Register of Opportunities') that will reduce Council energy use, costs and associated CO₂ emissions. It has been estimated that on an annual basis SDCC uses approximately 0.047 terrawatt hours (twh) and emits approximately 18 kilotonnes of CO₂. The Energy Management Action Plan project has allowed energy efficiency to become a priority in Council operations and has created momentum for the implementation of a wider range of energy saving initiatives.

CONSERVATION SECTION

South Dublin County Council's Record of Protected Structures contains 544 Protected Structures, 105 of which are public authority owned.

There are 5 designated Architectural Conservation Areas within South Dublin County, Tallaght Village, Rathfarnham Village/Willbrook, Lucan Village, Clondalkin Village and Palmerston Mills. This designation has been very successful in the conservation; protection and enhancement of those areas South Dublin County Council consider of great architectural quality and character.



The Conservation Grants Scheme for Protected Structures administered by the Council's Architectural Conservation Officer/Section has also been successful in ensuring owners of Protected Structures are provided grant assistance to undertake necessary conservation and repair works to secure and protect their structures. The conservation grant scheme funded by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government was paused during 2011 and replaced by the Structures at Risk Scheme.

Under the SRF Scheme 2011 a grant of €20,000 was allocated for remedial repairs and conservation works to Palmerston Weir.



Remedial repair and conservation works to Palmerston Weir during September 2011

Engage with Architecture Scheme 2011 Grant Funding

The Architectural Conservation Officer, Arts Officer and Youth Arts Co-ordinator worked together to complete an application to the Arts Council for funding under the Engage with Architecture Scheme 2011. The Scheme is a partnership between the Arts Council and Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht under the Government Policy on Architecture implementation programme. SDCC was one of the successful applicants securing one hundred percent funding totaling €17,400.

The programme of events submitted with our application was for a two-week event titled "Looking beyond eye Level-The impact of our built environment". We have support and involvement from Libraries and other internal departments and also support and services being offered from the Architectural Advisory Department, DAHG. Our timeframe for the event is the beginning of March 2012.

The Planning Department's Architectural Conservation Officer (in partnership with the Heritage Officer), also assisted and advised in relation to the survey/record of the Protected Structures in SDCC ownership which was being undertaken by Architectural Services Department. During the preparation of a Historic Landscape Characterisation Assessment for Newcastle-Lyons (an in-house study carried out under the County Heritage Plan), the Architectural Conservation Officer provided advice and assistance in relation to the Archaeological status of the study area and on the historic built environment.

The Planning Department's Architectural Conservation Officer/Section also provides reports on planning applications and Section 5 Declarations that affect Protected Structures, Architectural Conservation Areas and Recorded Monuments and Zones of Archaeological Potential.

- Pre-planning and general conservation advice is also provided to occupiers/owners of Protected Structures. The Architectural Conservation Officer/Section issues Section 57 Declarations in respect of Protected Structures.
- Section 59 Endangerment Notices are also initiated by the Architectural Conservation Officer/Section to include details of specific works that an occupier/owner of a Protected Structure must undertake to ensure the structure is being safeguarded.
- Reports are also prepared for the Enforcement Section with regard to unauthorised development to a Protected Structures or within an Architectural Conservation Area.
- The Planning Department's Architectural Conservation Officer/Section also provides advice to other Council Departments in relation to Protected Structures and other historic buildings/features and general conservation issues. This also includes providing reports or comments to other departments in relation to dangerous buildings, derelict sites and Part 8 notices.

Heritage

The County Heritage Plan was published and launched by Mayor Marie Corr in June 2011. A series of actions listed in the Heritage Plan were undertaken and achieved during the year including a joint SDCC and Heritage Council project mapping the habitats of the County. Other projects include the following:

A survey of Council-owned Protected Structures commenced in conjunction with Architectural Services and the Council's Architectural Conservation Officer. Two graduate archaeologists were engaged under the Work Placement Programme and undertook a Historic Area Assessment for Newcastle-Lyons. This was the first survey of its type in Ireland. Collation commenced of Council-owned heritage information reports which will contribute to the construction of a County Heritage Database.

In May 2011, one of the 4 event sites for the national biodiversity recording event, BioBlitz, was very successfully hosted by SDCC in Waterstown Park. Over 800 species were recorded in this Liffey-side park. A hedgerow training course was also provided for staff in this park to assist in biodiversity enhancement objectives.

Heritage advice and information was provided to the Council's Forward Planning section particularly in relation to Habitats Directive obligations for Appropriate Assessment of Council plans and projects. Advice was also provided to heritage interest groups such as student and residents groups while information was provided to South Dublin Tourism for the Irish Film and Television Network website which provides heritage data on potential film locations within the County.

Dublin Mountains Partnership (DMP)

The partnership approach has proved to be an excellent model for managing and delivering recreation services in the Dublin Mountains. The DMP continues to manage, protect and develop this valuable resource in a sustainable way that best serves everyone's interest. The DMP continues to implement the strategic objectives and actions set out in the Dublin Mountains Strategic Development Plan (DMSDP) for Outdoor Recreation 2007-2017. That plan was reviewed in 2011 and a revised Strategic Plan for 2012-2016 has been developed. The DMP is well recognised for the valuable work it has achieved over the last three years. The Partnership has demonstrated its ability to deliver high quality projects of varying scales, on time and in a cost efficient manner. This work provides benefits to the local residents and citizens of South Dublin, the Greater Dublin area and nationally along with enhancing the tourism potential of the County.

The Dublin Mountains Way which officially opened in 2010 as a new trail linking Tallaght in the west to Shankill in the east, achieved recognition in 2011, both through the Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards, and by being recognised officially as one of the country's National Way marked Ways.

Improving the recreation infrastructure is essential to providing a better recreation experience and to attracting new users to the mountains. An ongoing programme of trail improvement is in place and a number of sections of trail have been newly built, upgraded and way marked in 2011. Two new looped walks have been way marked in the Dublin Mountains at Slievethoul (8.7Km.) and Lugg (3.8 Km.), between Brittas and Saggart. Trail maintenance on many of the trails was undertaken by the volunteer rangers. Signage with site information and maps is

installed at all the main forest entrances and car parks. This provides valuable information for visitors on the trails, points of interest and the Leave No Trace message.

The volunteer rangers hosted many guided walks along sections of the Dublin Mountains Way throughout the year. Kiltipper Woods Care Centre opened a café along the route and it is proving popular with walkers as well as visitors to the centre. In Glenasmole, a walking tour company "Trails and Tales" has been established and regularly uses the Dublin Mountains Way and other DMP trails throughout the Mountains of South Dublin.

The DMP's first official regional mountain bike trails were opened by Minister Leo Varadkar at Ticknock Forest in early May. The trails were designed to best international sustainable standards and are graded moderate to very challenging. The trails are fast and fun with large rock slabs, big grade reversals, technical twisting bits and fast flowing descents. The trails appeals to a broad range of mountain bikers and are proving very popular with the mountain biking community, with over 2,300 users per month.

Improving information on the mountains and how visitors can access and make use of the resource is a key area for the DMP. Usage of the website www.dublinmountains.ie continued to grow throughout 2011 and combined with the development of a DMP social media presence is proving a very popular source of information on the mountains and events taking place. These are regularly updated with news and upcoming events, and provide visitors with maps and information about the recreation sites.

One of the most encouraging developments relating to the work of the Dublin Mountains Partnership over the last few years has been the establishment of a strong volunteering community of people willing to assist in the management and protection of our forests and mountains on Dublin's doorstep. Volunteering in the outdoors is an activity that contributes in many ways, not only to the environment, but also benefiting the volunteer, who gives of their time freely because of a love of the outdoors. Volunteers speak enthusiastically about the days they spend in the outdoors as rangers working on trails, leading guided walks, stewarding events and carrying out conservation work

With decreasing resources available from national government or local funds, volunteering for the outdoors makes a positive contribution to managing recreation. Volunteering builds connections between recreation users and the local community and with the recreation resource, encouraging a greater sense of ownership, involvement and participation in managing recreation and protecting the mountains.

The Volunteer Ranger Service was expanded again in 2011 with 11 new recruits bringing the team to 30 volunteers. All Volunteer Rangers commit at least two days a month. They are an extremely enthusiastic and committed group of people. All relevant training is provided to ensure the volunteers are as effective as possible.

"Google" the major search engine company runs an annual programme called "serve day" which encourages employees to contribute time and labour to local community projects. As in 2009 and 2010, a team of 20 volunteers came out to help with trail work on a section of the Dublin Mountains Way. A team of 16 from the Ritz Carlton, Powerscourt Hotel also came out to do some trail maintenance.

A consultative forum for stakeholders in the Dublin Mountains has been set up. This group met 3 times in 2011 and provides an opportunity for local people to keep abreast of the work of the DMP and for the DMP to listen to the ideas and concerns of local residents and businesses.



New signage was erected for each of the five permanent orienteering courses across the Dublin Mountains. On all five sites, there are now three courses of varying lengths for the public to use.

At the Hell Fire site, there are additional educational resources available for both primary and secondary schools and are designed to enhance the orienteering experience for both teachers and pupils. The orienteering maps, instructions and school workbooks are available to download on the DMP website www.dublinmountains.ie

A new nature trail with information and activities for children was opened in Massy's Wood. A booklet provides information on the wonderful array of specimen trees, native and exotic trees and heritage features present in Massy's Wood, with accompanying activity sections at each stop. This should be a useful resource for schools youth groups and families. The booklet and map are available to download on the DMP website www.dublinmountains.ie

The work of the DMP has received excellent coverage in both national and local media sources including the Irish Times, Irish Independent, Irish Examiner, RTÉ 6 o'clock news, RTÉ Capital D, Dublin South FM, Dublin City FM. This highlights the interest, both in Dublin City and nationally, in the work and achievements of the DMP. The DMP is demonstrating that partnership between different organisations with similar objectives, works and achieves results.

Review of Quarries

The review and assessment of all quarries in the County for the purposes of Section 261A of the Planning and Development Acts 2000-2010 commenced in 2011. This review focuses on compliance with the EU EIS and Habitats Directives and will be based on the information and evidence available to the Council. It must be completed by August 2012. The principal sources used will include the available council records, particularly those relating to planning applications, and documents submitted in relation to the Section 261 registration of quarries from 2005. Other sources / documents are used as appropriate where they provide information relevant for the purposes of Section 261A.

Planning Applications

In 2011, the Council received 685 valid planning applications. This represented a decrease of 16% on 2010. There were 678 decisions made in relation to planning applications during 2011, 589 grants of permission, and 91 refusals. 8 applications were declared withdrawn during 2011. There were 50 invalid applications received in 2011 and a further 8 applications deemed invalid due to the Site Notice not being in accordance with the regulatory requirements.

94 applications for Fire Safety Certificates were received in 2011.

81 applications for Disability Access Certificates were received in 2011

Enforcement

A total of 333 new enforcement files were opened in 2011. Warning letters were issued in 263 cases during 2011 and Enforcement Notices were served in 117 cases. District Court proceedings were initiated in 16 cases and Circuit Court proceedings were initiated in 3 cases. 1 Circuit Court Order was obtained, 12 cases were resolved following the issuing of District

Court proceedings and 2 Circuit Court cases were settled prior to Hearing. 142 cases were resolved without the necessity to apply to the Courts.

Development Contributions

South Dublin County Council's Development Contributions Scheme was adopted in accordance with Section 48 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) by the elected members on 14th December 2009 and is applicable to permissions granted from January 1st 2010 to 31st December 2017. Since the adoption of the scheme to the end of 2011, almost 1,300 grants of permission have been assessed for the purpose of development contributions. The total development contributions received under Section 48 schemes from 2004 to 2011 is almost €121million, with €2.65million collected in 2011.

The balance which remains owing in respect of contributions levied under Section 48 is c€30.5million with a provision of c€16.9million for bad debts, mainly relating to developments invoiced but not completed or developments not occupied.

The Councils expenditure on capital projects funded by Section 48 development contributions during 2011 was circa €2.7million.

The Council also adopted Supplementary Development Contributions Schemes (under Section 49 of the Act) for the Metro West line in 2008 (on behalf of the Railway Procurement Agency) and the Kildare Route Project Supplementary Development Contributions Scheme in 2007 (on behalf of Irish Rail).

During 2011, following the Governments announcement of the suspension of the Metro West Project, the elected members of South Dublin County Council resolved to suspend the Metro West Supplementary Development Contributions Scheme.

South Dublin County: Businesses Development and Sustainability Initiative

The elected members, as part of the Budgetary process for 2011, approved a business development and sustainability initiative. The initiative identifies 8 outcomes in this regard and details actions, timelines and responsibility for delivery for each outcome. Monthly updates in the form of an agreed template are provided to the elected members and the CDB. As part of the programme and in conjunction with South Dublin Chamber, a Business Sustainment Executive was appointed in May 2011.

Development Department

The Development Department works with State Agencies, Area Partnerships, other Council Departments 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 role of the Development Department is fulfilled through the 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 Council's role in controlling dereliction is also carried out by the Department.

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.

Over the last number of years, South Dublin County has experienced continuing commercial and industrial development by the private sector. The park is considered one of the four parks nationally that is suitable for large scale Foreign Direct Investment (FDI). However, this stage is becoming more crowded with competitors from Eastern Europe and Asia competing on a global basis with lower labour and service costs. To counteract the competition Grange Castle Business Park markets itself based on its strategic location and the quality of service that the Council and the Facilities Management Company can offer a client company.

Pfizer, Takeda, Microsoft and Aryzta AG (Cuisine de France) facilities are now well established in the Park. Works were completed on the extension to the Takeda facility during the year. Planning permission was granted to Microsoft for construction of phase 2 of their data centre facility comprising 11,090 sq. metres and construction is expected to commence in early 2012.

These major clients have delivered high quality sustainable investment and employment in South Dublin County.

The Council also played an active role in facilitating the establishment of two other data centres in Profile Park which is adjacent to Grange Castle Business Park.

Grange Castle Business Park and the surrounding area were identified as an ideal location for the development of a "free trading zone" to cluster mega data centres which would support international innovation and R7D centres. These were a core component of the successful submission to 'Your Country Your Call' as part of the Data Island Strategy.

The CCTV has been expanded and upgraded to incorporate the Green Route, which was officially opened in June 2010. All major services are now in place through the entire Business Park.

Grange Castle Facilities Management Ltd (a Management Company under the auspices of South Dublin County Council) continued its role in 2011 of overall responsibility for the management and maintenance of the entire Park including security and landscaping.

Land Acquisition

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

While there were no Compulsory Purchase Orders made in 2011, throughout the year the Council continued to negotiate and process compensation claims on lands acquired under earlier Compulsory Purchase Orders and by agreement, in previous years.

While most claims are successfully agreed between the Council's Valuer and the Claimant's Valuer, an increase in the number of complicated claims being referred to the Property Arbitrator has been experienced in recent years. Skilful preparation of reports and so on by Council staff for appearance before the Arbitrator and valuable experience of the technical and administrative staff involved has resulted in some cases being resolved before these cases are actually heard. The Council was also involved in 2011 in processing wayleaves and "consents" for 70 plots of land privately owned, to facilitate the construction of the Boherboy water supply scheme. This process of obtaining wayleaves and consents has been agreed for a number of years.

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 land owners to consolidate their ownership.

Given the current market value of land, the Department carefully evaluates, in conjunction with the Chief Valuer's Office, whether or not it is prudent (or appropriate), to recommend a disposal of land to the Council.

Property Management

Property Management is responsible for the management of the Council's property portfolio including the updating of our property register. Staff regularly monitor the property market in the County and surrounding area for indicators of price and identify potential strategic acquisitions that the Department might consider. Lands acquired by the Council and not required for immediate use are sometimes rented out for grazing and tillage purposes. The management also involves the granting and renewal of leases/licences for 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, C.P.O.'s) Finance (rates arrears, public liability claims) and Environmental Services (land acquisition and wayleaves).

Roads & Water Services

In 2011 the Roads Department continued with its Maintenance, Traffic Management, Design and Construction of National, Regional and Local roads.

National Roads

All of the larger contracts on the national primary roads have been completed, opened and the majority of work carried on these projects in 2011 was the negotiation of final accounts and the continuing programme of closing land acquisition cases.

Non-National Road Programme

Construction

Embankment Road

Link from Belgard Road to Outer Ring Road (Part of Walkinstown/Embankment Route).

Construction works were substantially completed in November 2011 and the road opened. We are currently snagging the route and completing some additional landscaping works. The final account is currently being assessed.

Stocking Lane

Work on the provision of the safety measures, new footpaths and cycle track was undertaken in 2011.

Ballycullen Quality Bus Corridor (QBC)

The construction phase of this project was completed in 2011 and the negotiation of the final account process has been initiated.

Non-national Roads – Design

Greenhills Road QBC

- Forward Land acquisition is being progressed.
- Detailed design / Site investigations have continued in 2011.

Bus and Luas Interface at the Square Tallaght

Consultations between the Council, the National Transport Authority and the Rail Procurement Agency continued during 2011 with a view to developing a bus and Luas interface at the Square Tallaght. Preliminary design works have since begun.

Nangor Road

The detailed design is currently being progressed for the reconstruction and upgrade

Lucan Newcastle Road R120

The application for funding made in 2011 has been approved by the Department of Transport and it is proposed that design works and forward land acquisition will be progressed in 2012.

Ballymaice

The detailed design work for the junction upgrade were finalised in 2011. A grant application to fund these works has been approved in the sum of €172,000 and works will begin in the second quarter of 2012.

Maintenance

National Roads

Details of the funding provided by The National Roads Authority in 2011 for the maintenance of the National Primary and Secondary network is outlined below

- National primary maintenance €188,100 (N7 & N4)
- National secondary Maintenance €58,900 (N81 & N82)
- National Primary special works €1,043,500 (N7 French Drains Rehabilitation works)
- National Secondary €282,627 (Pavement and overlay N81 Greenhills Road to County Boundary)
- Public Lighting National Primary and Secondary €544,400

Interdepartmental Maintenance Projects

The Maintenance Section worked in conjunction with the Parks Department to carry out the yearly grass cutting of margins and medians on the N4 and the N81 as well as hedge cutting on the N4.

The Parks Department carried out the grass and hedge cutting while the Roads Department provided the traffic management.

Non- National Roads

An allocation of €4,390,300 for road maintenance work was provided by the Department of Transport. The following roads were included under the improvement programme in 2011

Ballymount Road Lower	Cromwellsfort Road Phase 1
Kilteel	Cromwellsfort Phase 2
St Johns Estate	Military Road (Killakee)
Mill Road	Blessington Road (Old Tallaght Road)
Coldcut Road	Whitehall Road
Crockaunadreenagh	Castletymon Road
Aylmer Road	Robinhood Road
Rowlagh Estate	Belgard Road
Greenfort Estate	Athgoe Road (Final phase)

Additional works undertaken as part of the maintenance programme in 2011 were.

Restoration Maintenance	25 projects
Discretionary Maintenance	27 projects (this includes an allocation for winter maintenance and for patching due to winter weather)

The restoration and improvement programmes above involved works being undertaken on over 176,000 square meters of carriageway.

Footpath Programme

An amount of €500,000 was spent on replacing bays and removing trip hazards within the County. This work was carried out throughout the County with emphasis placed on the areas most in need of repair.

Winter Gritting

After two successive years, where we experienced exceptional weather conditions with prolonged periods of sub-zero temperatures and heavy falls of snow, the winter gritting season in 2011 was less demanding and the number of callouts required was significantly reduced. Work had begun in 2010, with grant assistance from the National Roads Authority, on the design and construction of an additional salt barn in the Palmerston Depot. Works were substantially complete in early 2011 affording the Council, increased storage capacity, easier access and greater flexibility.

As a response to local requests a pilot scheme was agreed for the installation of gritting bunkers in three locations in each electoral area. These were installed and filled in the Autumn of 2011 and a review of the initiative is currently been undertaken.

The location of the bunkers is outlined below

Ardeevin	Belgard Heights	Woodtown Park
Sarafield Park	Sylvan Avenue	Moyville
Woodfarm Acres	Orwell Park Heights	Palmer Pk \ Pearse Bros Pk
Swiftbrook	Floraville	Killinarden
Monastery Heath	Ellensborough	St. Patricks Crescent

Staff Training

Due to the on going demands under health and safety the training of staff within the Roads Department continued in 2011 with further staff attending Signing, Lining & Guarding; Health & Safety at Road works, Location of underground Services and Designers of Temporary Traffic Management Plans.

Other notable statistics for the Roads Maintenance area are

334 abnormal load permits were issued.

3,551 online Roadmap applications were made.

Roads Traffic

Traffic Management Centre

The Traffic Management Centre now utilises Twitter as well as SMS (51678), live traffic images, actual journey times plus profile journey times to assist road users. Following a planned programme of improvement works the Traffic Management Centre is now connected to traffic signals and traffic cameras via fibre optic cabling. To date the Traffic Section has installed

4.8km of ducting along major routes

4.5km of fibre optic cables installed

Fibre optic cabling along the Luas Saggart line was recently commissioned also.

These upgrades facilitate centralised and adaptive control of signal co-ordination at strategic locations. They also reduce the need for third party providers resulting in significant communications savings.

National Transport Authority (NTA) \ Department of Transport Funding

The Traffic Section continued in 2011 to submit projects for grant aid to both these agencies. Following an examination of the submission from South Dublin County Council significant funding was received and the following projects were under taken in 2011

Traffic and pedestrian signal improvements NTA

Earlsfort Road
Castle Road
Templeroan Road
Killinarden Community School
Scholarstown Road \ Stocking Lane
Scholarstown Road \ Ballyboden Road
Station Road, Clondalkin

Department of Transport Schemes

Ninth Lock \ Clondalkin Village
Monastery Road near N7
Saggart Cross roads
Kilteel (school set down and bus stop improvements)

Pay and Display

Pay and Display tariffs and enforcement procedures were tailored to assist in a greater turnover of parking spaces. Amendments were also made to the hours of operation in certain areas following consultation with Local Councillors and interested parties.

Road Safety and School Wardens

The School Warden service continued at schools and selected crossings throughout the County.

The Road Safety Section supported courses in cycle training for 1,480 national school children.

In conjunction with the Traffic Section a number of locations were identified for the installation of additional safety features and signage.

Water Services

The Water Services section of the Council co-operates as part of the Greater Dublin Regional Water and Drainage Steering Groups. This approach enables a consolidation of resources which reduces costs and ensures high quality of service provision to the people of South Dublin. However, water is a limited resource and there is a major study underway to identify new water sources for Dublin. This work will be a priority in the coming years and reports have already been made to the Environment Strategic Policy Committee. Wastewater treatment capacity is at a critical level across the Dublin Region and plans are under way to increase the capacity of Ringsend Wastewater Treatment Plant and to build a new regional plant in north Fingal

Water Maintenance and Operations

South Dublin County Council purchases approximately 69ML/day of treated water from Dublin City Council's water treatment plant at Ballymore Eustace and approximately 1ML/day from Fingal County Council's water treatment plant at Leixlip. This water is distributed throughout the County via approximately 1,500km of watermains and our 3 main storage reservoirs at Belgard, Peamount and Saggart. The water is distributed to approximately 90,000 households and over 5,100 metered commercial customers. South Dublin has 1 public water supply from a borehole in Brittas which supplies approximately 120m³ per day.

South Dublin rolled out a new drive-by meter reading system in 2009. This now gives us accurate consumptions for all commercial customers on which to base Water Charges and is a useful tool for resolving customer queries. The Water Inspectorate carry out all meter reading and resolving of associated queries, including leak and meter tamper alarms.

Civil Engineering works recommenced on the final phase of the Boherboy Water Supply Project in 2011 and this project is due for completion in 2012. This project involves the construction of a new 24ML reservoir at Saggart, a new 17.5ML reservoir at Kiltalown, ~45km of new watermains, and linkages and controls to incorporate all new works into the existing water network.

The quality of water is monitored and analysed regularly and complies with all the requirements of the European Communities (Drinking Water) (No. 2) Regulations 2007. 4,264 tests were carried out on the water in 2011 and 99.9% of samples were in compliance, which is above the national average as reported by the EPA. Details of all non-compliant samples and summary of results are regularly updated on the Council's website. There were no significant non-compliances or water quality issues in 2011.

During 2011 the Water Section repaired 125 burst mains, and carried out maintenance or replacement of 34 fire hydrants, 60 sluice valves and 499 services. Of the 499 services that we carried out works on, 120 were lead.

There were 2 significant weather related Water Supply crises in 2011. Early in the year we had a big freeze which caused problems with increased burst mains, frozen services and increased demand due to private site bursts and water wastage. We managed this during January and February by shutting off the water supply during the night in such a way that no customers were without water for more than a few hours at a time and they could rely on their storage tanks for continuous supply. The second crisis was caused by drought conditions during the summer with a consequent reduction in availability of raw water. We managed this by reducing water pressures Countywide and minor amendments to supply areas, and so this had very little affect on customers.

The Dublin Regional Watermain Rehabilitation Project commenced works in South Dublin in January 2011. Works mainly involved replacing over 10km of old mains and services with new polyethylene pipework:

Works were carried out in 4 areas during 2011

Limekiln: St. James's Rd, St. Patrick's Road, St. Conleth's Road, St. Gerard's Road, St. Joseph's Road, St. Malachy's Drive, St. Anthony's Crescent, St. Brendan's Crescent, St. Columba's Road & St. Killian's Avenue.

Ballydowd: The Old Hill Lucan, Main Street Lucan & Sarsfield Park.

Baldonnel & Saggart: Boherboy Road, Garter Lane & Baldonnel Road.

Red Cow: Turnpike Road, Robinhood Road, Club Road, & Ballymount Road Upper.

The Water Section Inspectorate which is based at Deansrath Depot provides a key support to developers, other Council Departments and outside agencies. This support is through the implementation of the Council's Specification for the Laying of Water Mains and Drinking Water Supply (latest edition January 2012), the Council's Water Bye-laws for the Management of Water Services and Conservation of Drinking Water 2004, the EC Drinking Water Regulations 2007 and the Water Services Act 2007.

The Mechanical Section working in conjunction with the Water Maintenance Section has continued to implement energy efficiency measures in the Water pumping station network. This has consisted of replacing pumps with intelligent variable speed drives. These drives work by adjusting the pumps speed to the water demand required at any given time. This has reduced electricity bills, plus reduced maintenance costs, with an additional benefit of increasing the particular pumps life.

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 water management is undertaken by a small dedicated team. The watermains infrastructure is recorded on a Regional GIS system which is maintained by each of the Dublin Local Authorities within the Greater Dublin Area.

Water distribution is managed using Logica Telemetry which remotely monitors the flows and pressures at 120 locations across the County and facilitates efficient weekly programming of leakage surveying works. Unaccounted for Water (UFW) losses in South Dublin County averaged 16.42% in 2011. The implementation of pressure control measures are assisting the Council to achieve the 2016 UFW targets of 16%, as set by the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government. 33-new Pressure Reducing Valves (PRVs) were commissioned in 2009 under the Water Conservation Programme in order to reduce mains pressure locally and thereby reduce leakage. The installation of 33 Day-Night Controllers is complete. Comparative data available to date indicates that savings of 2,363 m³/day are being achieved in 29 of the 33-PRVs. An additional 27-PRVs are being commissioned during 2011/12 as part of the Boherboy project. These measures will optimise the management of scarce water resources.

Due to the raw water storage crisis in 2011 most PRVs were adjusted from 3rd June to give no more than 15m daytime pressure and those with Day-Night Controllers have been adjusted where possible, without causing customer complaint, to give 10m nighttime pressure (10pm

to 7am). The resultant savings average 1.75 MI/day from 4th June 2011 to end January 2012. These pressure control measures remain in place. The heavy rainfall in late October 2011 resolved the raw-water crisis, with Poulaphouce reservoir level increasing by 1.63m from 22 – 25th October.

Dublin Regional Water Conservation Project (DRWCP) Status

The updated Générale Des Eau Report 2000 recommended a reduction of distribution losses (DL) to 20% by 2007 and 16% by 2016. SDCC is working progressively towards the 2016 DL target. Our target DL for 2011 was assessed on the final 2010 DL baseline as 19.40%. However, the preliminary Census 2011 report indicates an increased domestic population of 262,520 (264,174 less residents of hospitals, prisons etc). This has reassigned ~2ML/day of SDCC's total water usage as domestic demand rather than Unaccounted for Water.

Drainage

Drainage Maintenance and Operations

The Drainage Maintenance and Operations Section is based at Deansrath Depot, Clondalkin. This Section is responsible for maintaining and improving the South Dublin County Council Drainage System which comprises of approximately 1,500 km of foul and surface water public sewers. In 2011 this work consisted mainly of constructing new foul and surface water pipelines, to cater for increased drainage capacity and flood management i.e.

- (a) Dodder Valley Sewer, Catchment Network Upgrade Works at Kilvere/Butterfield Avenue
- (b) Glenbrook Bridge Scour Protection - Temporary Works
- (c) Dodder Valley Sewer, Catchment Network Upgrade Works at Butterfield Avenue/Rathfarnham Shopping Centre
- (d) Glenbrook Bridge Scour Protection - Final Works
- (e) Dodder Valley Sewer, Catchment Network Upgrade Works at Whitechurch Road. and Whitecliff Estate
- (f) Glenlyon FS Diversion, & Various Small Works (Plant only) at Ballymount and Jobstown

- River and stream flood management works such as screen maintenance
- Unblocking and freeing up of public sewers (PS)
- Remedial work on sewerage infrastructure
- Upgrading and refurbishing pumping stations for example Spa PS, Lucan, Johnstown PS, Palmerston and Quarryvale PS, Clondalkin.
- Maintenance of network of pumping stations
- Emergency call outs
- Taking over the drainage maintenance of new estates that have been "taken in charge" by the Council
- Providing advice on the Dublin Regional Drainage Code of Practice for Drainage Works.

CFRAMS (Catchment Flood Risk and Assessment Management Studies)

East CFRAM

The Eastern Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) study commenced in the Eastern district in June 2011 and will run until the end of 2015. The main aims of the Eastern CFRAM Study are to:

- assess flood risk, through the identification of flood hazard areas and the associated impacts of flooding;

- identify viable structural and non-structural measures and options for managing the flood risks for localised high-risk areas and within the catchment as a whole;
- prepare a strategic Flood Risk Management Plan (FRMP) and associated Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) that sets out the measures and policies that should be pursued to achieve the most cost effective and sustainable management of flood risk;
- ensure that full and thorough public and stakeholder consultation and engagement is achieved.

Dodder CFRAM

The points below show the remainder of the Dodder CFRAMS process: A review is required in light of the flood event of 14th October 2011

Public information day comments to be incorporated into the Draft Final Report

- Draft Final Report issued for 3 month public consultation, in the 1st quarter of 2012
- Final Report issued following public consultation, in the 2nd quarter of 2012
- Final Report adopted by Local Authorities or City/County Managers in the 3rd quarter of 2012
- Further studies to be carried out on local areas (flood cells) to see if there are cost beneficial solutions, particularly following the most recent flooding event of 24th of October 2011.
- Development of Public Awareness

Water Pollution Control

The River Basin Management Plan was prepared and adopted by South Dublin County Council in November 2009. The plan has been adopted by the other counties participating in the Eastern River Basin District (ERBD) and is in force since June 2010. South Dublin County Council is now implementing the agreed Programme of Works.

Recent Legislation of note has been the enactment of S.I. 272 of 2009 dealing with surface water quality objectives. This broadens the number of parameters that have upper (and in some cases lower) limits with regard to water quality. These limits directly relate to water quality status e.g. high or good, as aimed for in the ERBD Plan. New regulations SI No. 101 of 2009 EC (Good Agricultural Practice for the Protection of Waters) Regulations 2009 were enacted and as a consequence the previous 2006 and 2007 Regulations were revoked. Some changes of note are contained in the new regulations but its business as usual for the Water Pollution Control section with regard to this legislation. The EPA issued a Code of Practice for Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Systems for Serving Single Houses (p.e. ≤ 10). This has been included in the new county development plan as the document of reference for appropriate wastewater treatment not on the public sewer system. The Water Pollution Control Team is responsible for the monitoring, reviewing and issuing of trade effluent licences to businesses. In 2011, records show that a total of 140 licences were in force under the Local Government (Water Pollution) Acts 1977 & 1990, the EPA Act 1992, and the Waste Management Act 1996.

Water and Drainage Design/Projects

The Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government approved the following schemes to advance through planning under the Water Services Investment Programme 2010 – 2012:

- South Dublin Sewer Scheme 9B
- Dodder Valley Sewerage Scheme
- Saggart/Rathcoole/Newcastle Sewerage Scheme
- Water Conservation Stage 3 Works
- South Dublin Secondary Chlorination

The Boherboy Water Supply Scheme is currently under construction and is due to be completed in 2012.

Alternative energy sources are being investigated as summarized below. Following an assessment of the pilot studies one/both of these technologies will be rolled out across 10-12 of the proposed outstations. The remaining locations will be connected to ESB.

Solar:



A trial of the WCIL solar system, in Hibernian Industrial Estate is ongoing and has been live from 29/02/12. Modifications have been made to the outstation and converter to minimise power demand. The solar panel will be able to run two pressure transducers in addition to the existing flowmeter.

Hydroelectricity:



A trial of an IPL turbine generator in Finnstown DMA commenced in December 2011 with the installation of the turbine. This will use the hydraulic energy of water flowing in watermain to power the outstation (a PRV is required) and can supply 14w continuously.

Section 3- Organisational Matters

Corporate Services

Corporate Services Department continues to make improvements and better use of resources to ensure the provision of quality information, improved customer service to residents of the County and support the Members of the Council in delivery of their obligations to the electorate.

Corporate Services interacts with and provide support to all Council Departments and has general responsibility for Mayor and Members support, Communications, Customer Care, Internal Audit, Civic Buildings, Staff Facilities, Procurement, Register of Electors, Higher Education Grants, Events Management, Twinning and Freedom of Information.

Register of Electors/Local Electoral Areas

Corporate Services Department compiles the Register of Electors on an annual basis. The total number of electors registered on the 2011/2012 Register of Electors published on 1st February 2011 was 183,336. The breakdown of this figure across the five local electoral areas was:

Local Electoral Areas

Clondalkin:	37,110
Lucan:	32,036
Tallaght-Central:	32,579
Tallaght-South:	45,168
Rathfarnham:	36,443

The supplement to the Register of Electors contains the names of qualified electors who were omitted from the final register (published on 1st February) and also provides an opportunity for the correction of clerical and typographical errors. Two supplements to the 2011/2012 Register of Electors were prepared during 2011, in advance of the General Election in late February 2011 and the Presidential Election in October 2011.

Local Democracy & Public Representation

South Dublin County Council is a democratic organisation represented at local level by 26 Councillors who are elected to South Dublin County Council every five years.

Casual Vacancies: During 2011 five casual vacancies occurred as a direct result of the General Election and Seanad Election. A casual vacancy occurring in the membership of the council is filled in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 2001. In the case of a political party casual vacancy occurring, the outgoing member or their political party nominates a replacement who is then co-opted by the Council..

A training programme was delivered to the five new Councillors and Oireachtas members in order to ensure proficiency, familiarity and confidence in the support systems available to them through South Dublin County Council.

Public Representations: Over 4,600 public representations were managed through the Council's online Members representation system during 2011. These representations were made by members of the Oireachtas and by local Councillors.

Meetings: During 2011 Elected Members participated in approximately 140 formal meetings relating to core Council business including;

- Annual
- Budget
- Monthly Council
- Area Committees
- Organisation, Procedure & Finance
- Strategic Policy Committees
- Corporate Policy Group

In addition, meetings related to other activities of the Council in which the elected members also participate including Audit Committee, Joint Policing Committee, County Development Board, County Tourism, Traffic Management Committee, Deputations.

More information about the Council's meetings and committees, including agendas and minutes, can be found on www.sdcc.ie under Your Council.

Area Committees: Following a comprehensive review of Area Committee operations the Lucan / Clondalkin Area Committee was formally dissolved and two distinct Area Committees were established in line with the two existing Local Electoral Areas. As a result a number of amendments were made to the Council's Standing orders to take account of administrative changes to Council structure and business.

Payments: The following is an outline of payments made to or in respect of Members of South Dublin County Council during 2011.

Allowance	€
Members Representational Payment	427,070
Members' Annual Allowance	161,467
Members Training & Development (inc Conferences and seminars) expenses	25,126
Members' Mobile Phone Allowance	15,600
Mayor's & Deputy Mayor's Allowance	62,142
Strategic Policy Committee Chairpersons' Allowance	36,000
County Development Board Chairperson's Allowance	6,000
Members' Retiring Gratuity	169,841

Higher Education Grants

Higher Education Grants are awarded to students who are residents of South Dublin in accordance with the Local Authorities (Higher Education Grants) Acts, 1968 – 1992 and the relevant annual Scheme which is developed under guidelines from the Department of Education and Skills and then adopted by the Council.

Under the Higher Education Grants Scheme for the 2011/2012 academic year, 1340 students were awarded grant assistance in respect of Maintenance and/or Fees. A total amount of **€5.1m** million was paid out in Higher Education Grants during the 2011 calendar year.

During 2011 South Dublin County Council accepted over 800 applications from first year students online and continued to make payments to students by way of Electronic Fund Transfer (EFT) which was first introduced in 2009 as a pilot scheme involving the four Dublin Local Authorities to make payments of maintenance grants directly to Students by way of EFT. Payments are made in line with the other Dublin Authorities and in agreement with Colleges and Student Unions.

In late 2011 the Department of Education and Skills announced that a new centralised authority, Student Universal Support Ireland (SUSI) would be dealing with all new applications for Student Grants commencing May 2012. South Dublin County Council will continue to process reviews/renewals of all Grant Applications currently on hand.

Reform of Procurement Policy

During 2011 work continued on implementation of the objectives of the Council's Corporate Procurement Plan.

A comprehensive procurement awareness programme was developed and implemented which coincides with

- the introduction of revised purchase order approval limits
- the introduction of Council's new quotation process and thresholds (which incorporate the principles of Circ Letter 10/10 , Facilitating SMEs participation in procurement)
- the publication of the Council's in-house Procurement Procedures Manual
- launch of Corporate Services new in-house Procurement Homepage.

Training and up-skilling in procurement efficiencies continued during the year. Training focused on the needs of staff in relation to skills and tools required in order to award contracts in a fair, transparent and equitable way and with particular emphasis on best practice and value for money.

Freedom of Information

During 2011 South Dublin County Council received 61 Freedom of Information requests. This compares to a total of 46 requests received in 2010. These requests came from the following sources:

- Journalists: 2
- Business Interests: 4
- Staff: 4

- Clients / Customers: 29
- Others: 22

Of these 61 requests **83%** were granted or part granted. Requests received were mainly related to Housing and Planning records.

Internal Audit & Efficiency Unit

The Internal Audit and Efficiency Unit forms part of the corporate governance framework within SDCC. The Unit carried out independent appraisals on the Council's control framework in order to provide management with information on the adequacy and effectiveness of the organisation's systems of control. To accomplish this all Council activities are subject to audit.

The audit plan was approved by the County Manager and endorsed by the Audit Committee. The plan provided good coverage across the organisation reviewing at least one activity in most of the Council's departments including some cross cutting activities between departments. An important measure of the effectiveness of Internal Audit is the acceptance and implementation by Management of recommendations made. All recommendations made were accepted by management and included amendments to policies and procedures to strengthen controls.

The Unit also reviewed business processes to evaluate the effectiveness of operations and made recommendations to improve the overall efficiency, effectiveness and value for money of the area reviewed.

The Unit also continued to champion the embedding of risk management throughout the organisation.

Health and Safety

South Dublin County Council is committed to ensuring that all its services and operations are carried out and delivered, as far as possible, safely and without risk to staff and members of the public. The Council has two professional Health and Safety Officers who deliver advice, train staff and carry out inspections and risk assessments. The Council has a Safety Management System in place which includes all the Council's workplaces having Safety Statements which are reviewed regularly to take into account any changes to work practices, legislation and personnel. A comprehensive programme of safety training is in place to ensure staff are qualified and competent to work safely. This programme includes the FAS and FETEC national requirements of the Construction Skills Certification Scheme. New national safety requirements for all Local Authorities, as agreed by the City and County Managers Association will be implemented in South Dublin County Council as required.

Customer Care

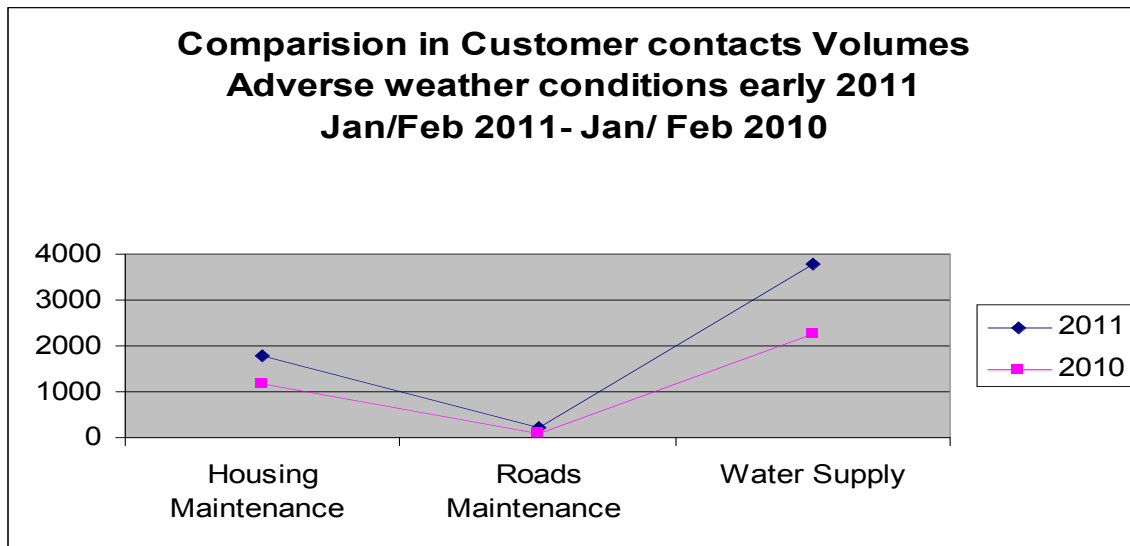
The Customer Care Centres have been the Council's primary contact with our citizens since their establishment in 2004. High quality service to our customers is our main objective and performance is continually monitored to maintain standards and to meet our response deadlines. New technologies and electronic tracking systems used throughout the organisation ensure prompt response to service requests and over 80% of requests are dealt with at first point of contact.

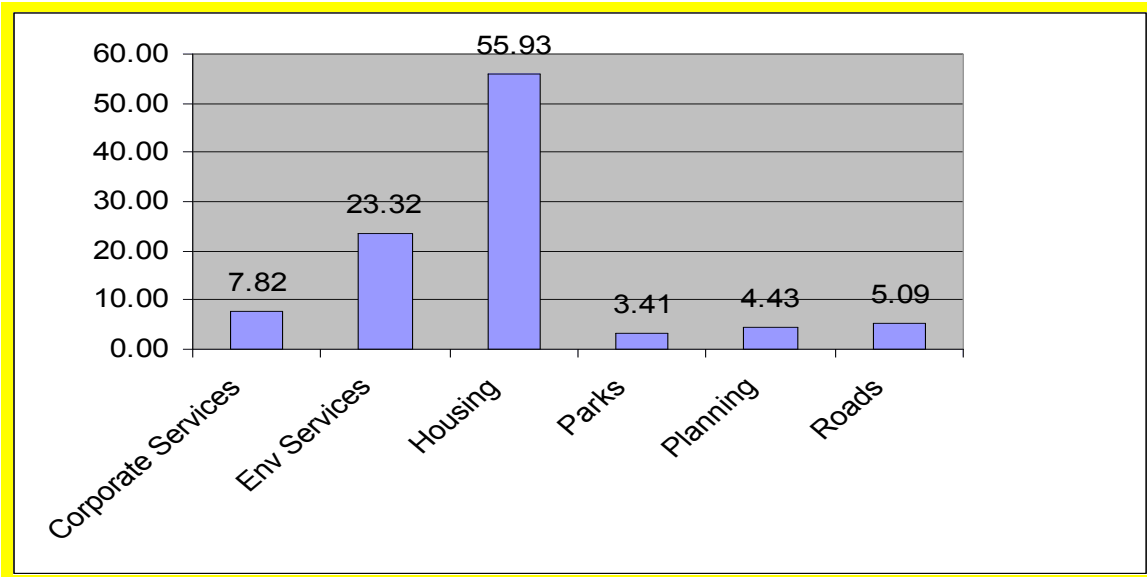
Fix Your Street, a new initiative outlined by the government in the *Programme of Government for National Recovery* and piloted by South Dublin County Council commenced in August 2011, has become a key element of our interaction with our customers and has been very favourably received due to the prompt response to reports from residents. Fix your street will shortly be extended to all Counties countrywide.

The following is an outline of our engagement with individual customers during 2011:

Customer contacts logged (all sources)	124,000
Phone calls received	230,000
Web enquiries received	10,400
Fix your street activity	1,989

A proactive approach, resource planning, and analysis of workflow is a crucial element in the Councils service delivery strategy in order to meet challenges under any circumstances and at any time. Customer Care continues to play a key role as a channel for communication between our citizens and the operational staff. As illustrated below this was clearly and successfully demonstrated during adverse weather conditions in early 2011.





As can be seen from the graph, during 2011 enquiries relating to Housing and Environmental Services continued to be the highest across the organisation. The sale of the Domestic Refuse Service and introduction of Household and other charges is expected to impact other areas in 2012.

Mayor's Office

Councillor Caitríona Jones was elected Mayor at the Annual Meeting of the Council held in June 2011 and was presented with the Chain of Office by outgoing Mayor, Councillor Marie Corr. Councillor Pamela Kearns was elected Deputy Mayor.

Civic Events

Over 220 events were attended by the Mayor in 2011, reflecting the council's interaction with local community groups, schools, businesses and other public bodies. Highlights included Engineers Ireland Week, St. Patrick's Day Festival, National Play Day, Halloween, Social Inclusion Week, National Accessibility Week and Christmas 'Unwrapped' event.

Communications

The Communications Unit plays a key part in making sure accurate, timely and relevant council information is made available to members of the public, elected members and council staff. The Unit is also responsible for the Mayor's Office and the promotion of South Dublin County Council's services and initiatives. This includes using a wide range of communication channels to ensure information is accessible including:

Social Media: Social Media is changing the way we work and provides South Dublin County Council with opportunities to educate and inform citizens. Social Media encourages greater democratic engagement; it provides a medium for members of the community to give us instant feedback on how we are delivering our services. In times of limited financial resources, social media is relatively inexpensive. Throughout 2011, the Council has continued to develop

these resources to provide real time information, create awareness campaigns and promote civic events. The Council has over 2,200 followers on [Twitter](#) and 1,140 followers on [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#)

Media monitoring/ Press Releases: The Communications Unit aims to develop and maintain good relationships with the national and local media. In 2011 over 500 media queries were processed and 125 press releases issued providing information on council initiatives and services.

Corporate Publications: During 2011, the Unit produced the 'Annual Report 2010' and 'A Guide to Commercial Rates 2012' which will be distributed to the business community as part of the Council's 'Developing and Sustaining Business' Initiative.

Membersnet/ Staff Intranet/Newsletter: The Communications Unit manages the compilation of distribution of the internal staff newsletter 'South Circular'. In addition the Unit provides information for the membersnet and intranet; ensuring elected members and staff are kept up to date with important council news.

Brand management: The Communications Unit provides advice and guidance to all departments to ensure that council services and property are clearly branded in the corporate style.

Major Emergency Plan: The Communications Team has a key role to play in supporting the Council's emergency management team in issuing information updates for the elected members, public and media in particular during the severe weather and flooding of 2011.

Filming requests: the Unit processed and co-ordinated the facilitation of eight requests to film TV commercials, documentaries and feature films during 2011.

Promotion of the Irish Language: South Dublin County Council continued to develop and support the Irish Language in 2011, some of the key activities included:

- Irish is now available in all the interactive Self Service Points in South Dublin Libraries
- Irish is included on www.southdublinlibraries.ie Online Language Learning, which is free of charge and available to all our members.
- The home page of www.athcliaththeas.ie was further developed to include daily notices and news articles
- Seachtain na Gaeilge 2011 in South Dublin Libraries organised 35 events for adults and children during the twelve day festival
- Over 90 events took place throughout South Dublin County, celebrating Irish, which catered for over 11,500 people.
- Irish Classes and Conversational Groups were held throughout the library network.
- Between May and October 97 documents were translated and our Major Policy Documents were made available in Irish, including the Corporate Plan and Annual Report
- Under our current correction programme 429 Irish road signs corrected and erected across the County.
- There were 353 queries registered under the Irish Office / Gaeilge throughout the Council.

Disability Liaison / Access Office

During 2011 the Disability Liaison / Access Office continued to carry out Access Officer, Liaison Officer and Inquiry Officer functions, as defined in the Disability Act 2005.

There was no National Disability Strategy funding available from central government during 2011. Therefore we continued implementation of 'Enabling Access, *Ensuring Equality of Opportunity*' (South Dublin County Council Disability Act Implementation Plan), through focussing largely on non capital actions to improve and enable access for disabled people in South Dublin County.

Key achievements in 2011 include:

- Celebration of Accessibility held in Camac Valley Caravan and Camping Park to promote the new universal accessibility of the Park in particular, and Accessible South Dublin County in general;
- In January the South Dublin County Disability Advisory / Consultative Panel celebrated the end of its first year by hosting a seminar on Universal Design. During 2011 the Panel also made submissions on universal design to the Draft Clondalkin Framework Plan and the Fortunestown Local Area Plan Pre-Draft Consultation;
- Smartphone App (iPhone and Android) for online accessible parking search facility made available from <http://accessible.southdublin.ie>
- <http://accessible.southdublin.ie> further developed with pages on Universal Access, and the South Dublin Disability Advisory / Consultative Panel created. The website had 1,418 New Unique Users between January and December 2011;
- Camac Valley Caravan and Camping Park won the Award for Outstanding Customer Service in the Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards. This win was achieved due to the significant level of accessibility now available within the facility.
- South Dublin County was selected by Ireland's national judging panel to go forward to the European stage of the Access City Award 2012 (we were one of only 31 national finalists selected out of a total of 114 applicants across Europe). This Award is an EU / EDF initiative under the European Disability Strategy 2010-2020;
- Disability Liaison / Access Officer was Chair of the National Access Officers Network during 2011;
- Diverse programme of activities delivered during National Accessibility Week 2011. Activities included 'Park Right' poster and information leaflet distributed to every school and community facility in the County, sign interpreted live web chat with the Mayor, access awareness Twitter campaign, exhibit of adapted car to highlight driving as an accessible transport option for people with mobility impairments and a performance by the Dublin Deaf Choir;
- Continued development (in partnership with the other 3 Dublin local authorities), of the Dublin City Council led [Dublin Access Guide](#);
- 21 cases dealt with by the Access Officer Service (includes instances where disabled people required assistance navigating Council services, and where Council staff required advice on providing access for disabled people).

Twinning

South Dublin County Council has formal twinning arrangements in place with the London Borough of Brent and Kreis Segeberg in Germany. The Council also supports the community twinning arrangement between Rathcoole and Ecole Valentine in France.

Ethiopian Project

This project which partners South Dublin County Council with two Ethiopian towns – Butajira and Werabe was funded by Irish Aid (the overseas development arm of the Department of Foreign Affairs) and South Dublin County Council. In late 2007 Irish Aid agreed to provide the project with funding of €320,000 per annum over an initial period of 3 years. SDCC part funds the project (currently to the extent of €50,000 per annum). Both Ethiopian partners are committed to contributing an overall 15% of the total project expenditure and in some cases they supplement this by additional provision of local labour or materials. The basic aim of our project is to build the capacity of the two town administrations through targeted training delivered by both SDCC staff and local management consultants coupled with the development of a 3-year rolling programme of infrastructural works and community development initiatives (based on locally determined priorities). These local initiatives are aimed at building and consolidating a strong and sustainable base for both communities while at the same time building municipal capacity in the area of project and financial management, monitoring, evaluation and reporting. The project elements cover a very wide range of areas mirroring those of local authority responsibility in Ethiopia. These include:

- Management Training for Municipality Politicians & Staff
- Technical Training delivered by SDCC Staff
- Water supply networks and standpipes
- Public & School Sanitation blocks
- Waste management
- Street Paving
- Surface Water Drainage
- Urban Planning
- Upgrading and Provision of New School Buildings & Equipment
- Provision of Health Facilities & Training
- Gender Equality Programmes
- Child Support Programmes
- Youth Recreational Facilities
- Computer Provision & ICT Training
- Library Development

In 2011, the funding programme from Irish Aid came to an end. The work this year focused on completion of ongoing programmes in flood/surface water drainage systems, sanitation blocks, water-points, classroom construction and library provision in the two towns. Workshops and professional training continued on the two annual visits. The project will formally close in 2012.

For more information, annual reports, photos and videos outlining our work, visit the project website at <http://ethiopianproject.southdublin.ie>

Connecting with the Citizen

The 'Connect' concept is about supporting and promoting new and innovative uses of technology for our citizens, businesses, educational and community services. Connect can see a future where everyone in South Dublin County uses the internet as an everyday tool to improve their quality of life, and where opportunities are developed for lifelong learning, leisure, personal, social and civic development.

The Big Picture

The Big Picture is a multi-media public exhibition space in Tallaght Town Centre which brings the future of South Dublin County to life in a visual and engaging manner. The Big Picture is available to community, business and school groups for events and exhibitions. During 2011 a number of exhibitions took place in the Big Picture including 'Glitch', Engineers Week and the Creative Campus.

Connect School Project

The distribution of laptop computers to the 2010 incoming first years saw South Dublin County Council complete the provision of laptops to all students in St Aidan's Community School Brookfield, Tallaght. The Connect School Project will continue in 2012 and will be delivered by the staff of St. Aidan's with support from South Dublin County Council. Learnings from the Connect School Project, including an open-licensed Toolset for use by any school, will be presented at the upcoming CESI (Computer Education Society of Ireland) meeting in February 2012.

Social Media Means Business Conference

The Social Media Means Business Conference took place on the 8th June in Tallaght Stadium. This was a half day conference organised jointly with South Dublin Chamber and the Innovation and Enterprise Network. There were 150 attendees and the main speaker was renowned Social Media for Business expert Krishna De. The conference covered the main social media, LinkedIn, Twitter, Facebook, with advice on how best to use these media to generate leads for your business.

At the close of the Conference the Social Media Means Business (SMMB) 'Community of Practice' was launched. The SMMB Community of Practice offers training to business-people throughout the Dublin Region in the use of Social Media for Business.

Social Media Means Business 'Community of Practice'

SMMB provides training in social media to empower participants to take advantage of social media for businesses. In 2011 Social Media Means Business developed and delivered twelve workshops on the use of Social Media for Business. In 2012 we plan to develop and deliver further training workshops of a more advanced nature to cater for the needs of this growing community. A six week training programme entitled 'Creating and Sharing Digital Resources using Moodle' will also be delivered as part of the Connect Education Community of Practice. This will be delivered through the Dublin West Education Centre. The Connect Education Community of Practice now has over 200 teachers enrolled and the SMMB Community of Practice, which was launched in June, now has over 150 members.

Connect Centres

The Community Centre Network facilitates the sharing of information between community centres. Through a centralised website www.connectcentres.ie members can share information and promote Community Centre activities in the South Dublin County area.

Connect Me

Connect Me continues to be the primary hub of publicly accessible spatial information. Corporate information is combined with business and community related information. The Connect Me system has now been used for the past 6 years and during the course of 2011 it was further updated. Our strategy is to provide a one stop shop of publicly accessible information, the Spatial Data Team continues to manage the various data stores and provide regular updates. Connect Me also allows our corporate data to be spatially referenced.

Human Resources

The Human Resources Department manages all Human Resource functions for our staff and throughout 2011 the department worked hard to address the ongoing staffing needs of the organisation in the face of the ongoing recruitment embargo, and reducing staff numbers.

Our focus on retention of staff, workforce planning, staff welfare, employee relations, training and development and management of benefit and entitlement schemes remained key activities of the department. The department was heavily involved in working with our Finance Department in seeking cost savings and payroll reductions through offering flexible working arrangements to staff as well as streamlining work practices.

The opportunities offered by the Public Service Agreement (PSA) 2010-2014 [Croke Park Agreement] to implement real and effective change led to the development of a Local Action Plan setting out change objectives and identifying cost savings where relevant. The headings set out under the PSA and reflected in the Local Action Plan are:-

- Restructuring
- Shared Services
- Procurement
- E government
- Productivity and Performance

Human Resources co-ordinated the compilation of the local action plan, and has continued in a co-ordinating role in terms of follow up scheduling of meetings/issuing of change proposals to staff unions. The first and second review of delivery of actions under the Local Action Plan as well as the various National Level Actions took place during 2011.

The achievement of an Integrated Human Resource system through the implementation of CORE HR is at final stage. The Time and Attendance module went live in early 2011, and the system offers us:-

- Employee self service for leave, payroll and training functions. The issuing of payslips will be phased out by the Finance department arising from the implementation of this aspect of the system
- Workflow Management through the automation of business processes leading to better process control and improved efficiencies.
- Managing employee resources through capturing all relevant employee details in a live working environment
- Training management and profiling.
- CORE BI (Business Intelligence) reporting
- Health and Safety records
- Full Integration with payroll and pensions

An added significant benefit of the system is a comprehensive and integrated management reporting and analysis option.

Investment in Staff Training continued to be maintained at a high level in 2011 and was in line with National requirements of 3% of payroll costs. Corporate and Mandatory training requirements were also addressed and delivered on to ensure ongoing up-skilling of staff and compliance with Health and Safety requirements.

Total of 241 training days attended by 2,129 staff

Breakdown as follows:

Health and Safety – 182 training days attended by 1,318 staff

IT Training – 8 training days attended by 39 staff

Specialist Training – 50 training days attended by 772 staff

Continuing Professional Development

The retention of the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) accreditation was achieved in 2010. Our Continuing Professional Development (CPD) accreditation which was achieved in 2010 continues to offer benefit for our engineering/technical staff and for the Human Resources Department. Retaining the accreditation involves ongoing mentoring for staff, implementation of the CPD policy and centralised knowledge management through the Learning Circle. In addition seminars and information sharing sessions are arranged on a monthly basis. Ongoing rigorous annual audits take place to ensure retention of the standard. Following a visit from the accreditation panel in September 2011 and subsequent approval by the Engineers Ireland CPD Standing Committee South Dublin County Council were given an extension of our title of Engineers Ireland CPD Accredited Employer for a further three years with an annual report to be submitted each September.

Competency Framework

South Dublin County Council is one of seven local authorities taking part in the PMDS Review/Competency Framework Project. In 2011 training for the extended Management team was completed. When fully complete in 2014 the competency framework will set out the knowledge, skills, values and behaviours that underpin effective management, employee contribution and employee development.

The Time & Attendance Unit monitored absenteeism throughout the year and employed a proactive approach to intervening with a view to minimizing absenteeism levels.

Human Resource Service Indicators

In 2011 there were 2,047 days lost to Uncertified Sick Leave (USL) and 11,298 Days lost to Certified Sick Leave (CSL).

The Service Indicator figures for 2011 for USL was 0.70%, and for CSL was 3.89%.

The department has applied best practice in this area for some time now and statistics compare favourably with National averages.

The services of two occupational health physicians are retained for staff referral in the management of absenteeism. The Staff Welfare service continues to provide discrete, confidential professional support and counselling to staff. It consists of two qualified Staff Welfare Officers who are members of the relevant professional bodies and the Employee Assistance Professionals Association of Ireland. They also provide a Psychological First Aid and support service to any staff who suffer a critical incident/accident in their working environment, and liaise with appropriate external services which can provide professional services to staff. During 2011, Staff Welfare delivered a Mindfulness program to staff which is

based on the Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction Programme, this program has been proven to be very effective in helping staff to manage stress more effectively.

The Pensions Unit which was established within the Human Resources Department in 2007 is continuing to operate very effectively. The Unit provides an enhanced level of service on pension and retirement related matters. The Pensions Module of the Core HR system became operation in 2009.

The Employee Relations (ER) Unit continue to maintain communication with the relevant trade unions on a regular basis on issues of concern. 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. Since the introduction of the Public Service Agreement, all change proposals are channelled through the ER Unit and brought to meetings with relevant unions for discussion and agreement/referral. The process of referral is to the Local Government Implementation Body initially, and then on to the National Implementation body if necessary. Implementation of agreed National Level actions is communicated through the ER Unit on notification from the Local Government Management Agency who are the co-ordinators for the local government sector.

The **Partnership Office** continued with a limited programme of work and activities: services to retired staff, literacy programmes and staff newsletter. Partnership committee meetings made up of staff representatives and management met during the year and approved a number of new policies.

Law Department

The Law Department continued to provide advisory, litigation and property services for the Council and it's Departments across a wide range of functions.

Advisory

The Law Department contributed to the management of the Council with the Law Agent being a member of the Council's Senior Management Team. It gave legal advice on a wide range of strategic issues to include health and safety, data protection, freedom of information, procurement, receivership and liquidation, water services and infrastructure, rates and debt recovery.

The Law Department also worked closely with the Internal Audit and Efficiency Unit on areas of risk within the Council.

The Law Agent also provided advice and led the Council's team at an oral hearing convened by An Bord Pleanala in respect of a major planning application for the development of housing in Clondalkin.

Litigation

The litigation section continued to assist in policing the public realm by acting for the Council in prosecutions under the litter, waste, control of liquor and control of dogs legislation with 403 separate instructions received in 2011. The litigation section was also involved in the high profile waste management case of South Dublin County Council -v- John Ronan & Sons and others 2011 IEHC 498 which dealt with the clean up of historic waste on a site within its functional area and introduced new legal authority in the area of personal responsibility of directors for environmental clean up.

2011 saw the establishment of the Debt Management Unit within the Council and the litigation section worked closely with this Unit to improve the interaction between the computer systems of the Debt Management Unit and the Law Department. The Law Department worked with the Debt Management Unit mainly in respect of the recovery of rates due to the Council with over 937 separate instructions received from the debt management unit in 2011.

The litigation section also provided services in the following areas :-

- (1) Contract disputes.
- (2) Employer liability.
- (3) Conciliation of public works contracts.
- (4) Land disputes.
- (5) Statutory arbitrations arising out of compulsory purchase of land.
- (6) Procurement litigation.
- (7) Planning injunctions.

Property

The property section dealt with major legislative changes in 2011 which directly affects the day to day practice of property law, particularly: -

- (1) The Land and Conveyancing Law Reform Act, 2009 (as amended) by the Civil Law (Miscellaneous Provision) Act 2011, regarding easements.
- (2) The Multi Unit Development Act, 2011, which concerns the management of residential developments.
- (3) The Civil Partnership and Certain Rights and Obligations of Co-habitants Act, 2010, which concerns the property rights of parties whose relationships are either governed by a civil partnership or by co-habitation.
- (4) The acquisition of property which is in the portfolio of the National Asset Management Agency (NAMA).
- (5) The impact of the European Courts decision regarding Local Authorities' liability for VAT.
- (6) Changes to the Law Society's Standard Contract, Special Condition 3 re: VAT.
- (7) Mandatory Stamp Duty applications electronically under ROS e-Stamping as of the 1st of June 2011.

The Housing (Local Authorities Loans) Regulations 2009 saw the introduction of a new scheme to provide access to mortgages to house seekers who have been unable to get loans from the banks or building societies and in 2011 the Law Department received new instructions in respect of this scheme. The Law Department also completed its move to electronic discharges with the Property Registration Authority.

Information Technology Department

Service Delivery via the Web

South Dublin County Council continues to harness creative and innovative ways of working. Councillors and staff are delivering real, citizen-centred services using creative thinking and skill sharing. Nurturing innovation and creative thinking in the development of new technologies and solutions will deliver economic growth and enterprise.

Underpinning the basis of our work is the primary focus on putting the citizen at the centre of what we do.

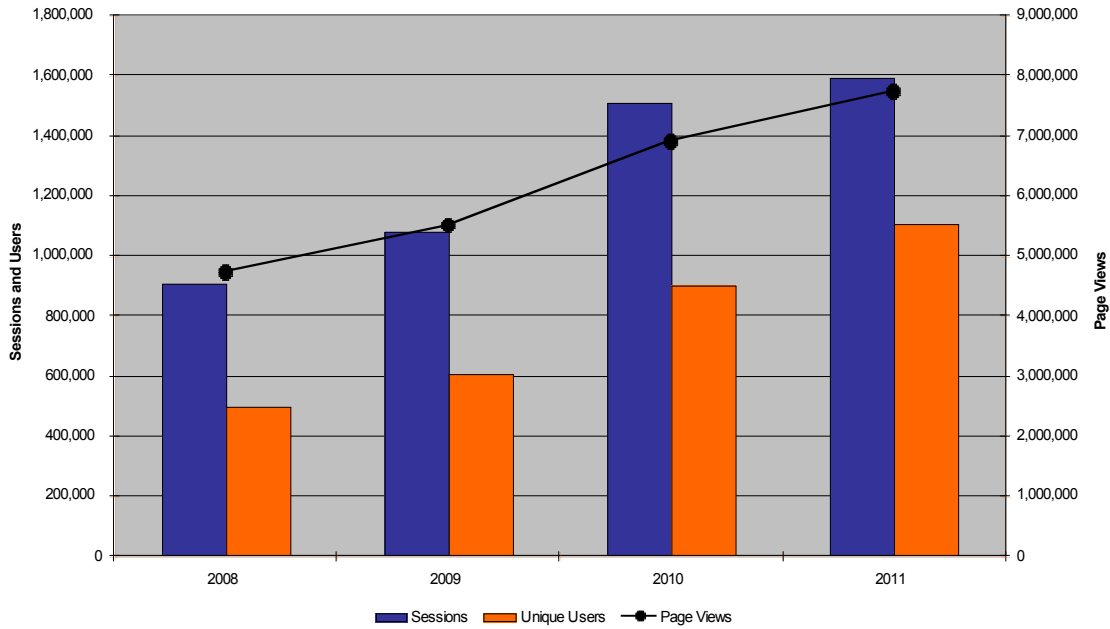
With increasing access to the Internet on smart-phones and electronic devices, the way consumers search for information is changing. People search online to find what they need, and fast. The Internet has changed the way that people communicate with each other, and social media is a huge part of this. SDCC, for some time now, has used the web as the primary method to reach its target audience and to continually improve customer relations. It is a two-way conversation with the people that matter – the citizens.

3 critical components are consistently measured to ensure that we are delivering our services effectively via the web: the number of page views; the number of unique users availing of our services; the number of user sessions that have been availed of.

The web is responding to the dynamic changing needs of the environment in which we work and this can be demonstrated in the graph as displayed, showing a year on year increase, with 2010 displaying the highest usage ever recorded internally in a given period. This can be directly attributed to the display of periodic updates on the homepage of www.sdublincoco.ie in December 2010 when adverse weather conditions affected transport within the County's roads infrastructure and the subsequent impact on the water supply and reserves in the South Dublin area.

Such analysis helps us in our understanding of just how effective customer information campaigns are and where more efforts need to be focused and expended.

Yearly Totals



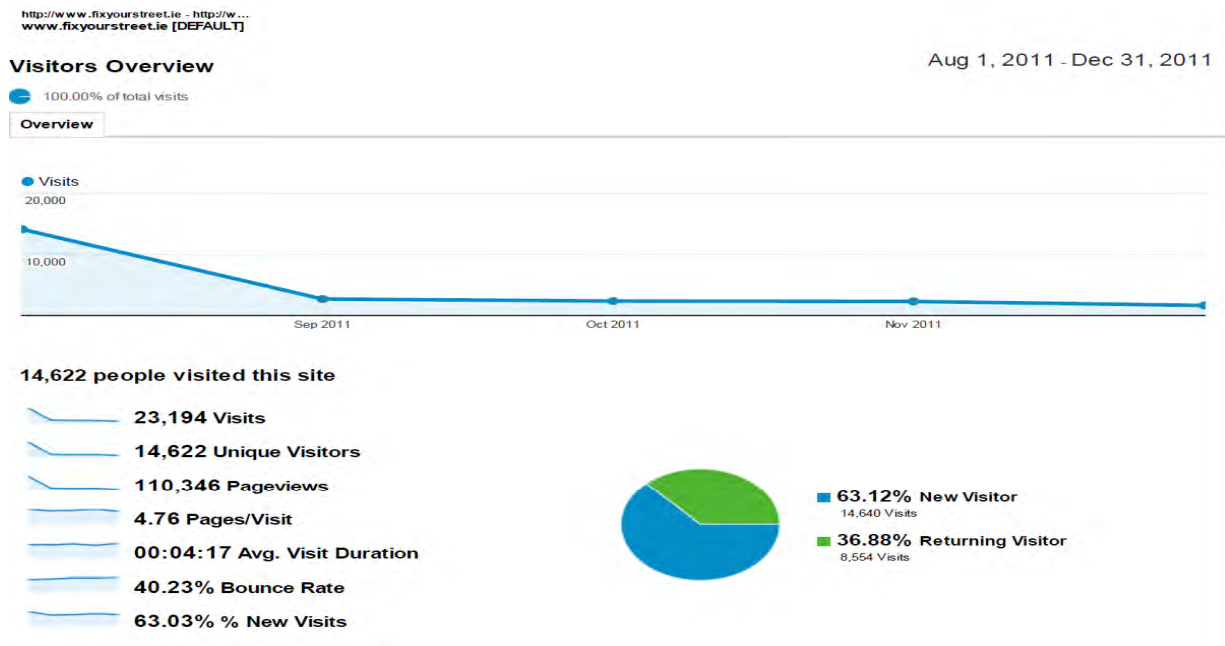
Fix Your Street

'fixyourstreet.ie' is a new service, developed by South Dublin County Council and is in pilot phase in the South Dublin area since 2nd August, 2011. It is a publicly accessible website with associated mobile technologies on which non-emergency issues such as graffiti, road defects, street-lighting issues, water leakage/drainage issues and litter or illegal dumping can be reported to the local authority. As promised in the Programme for Government, issues raised on 'fixyourstreet.ie' will be responded to by an official of the Council within 2 working days.



During the pilot phase, the technologies deployed and processes in operation within the Council are being tested in a live working environment. 'fixyourstreet' has been developed using Open Source software and data is stored in the 'Cloud'. It facilitates openness and transparency by keeping each issue reported and its progress in the public domain, available through the website. As the service is open, dealing only with non-personal information, third parties are free to analyse and interact with the service and its data. An API (Application Programming Interface) is also freely available.

The hosting environment will scale as needed to support 'fixyourstreet.ie' as a national platform, for rollout to other Local Authorities. See Usage Statistics displayed below from August 1st – 31st December 2011 following launch of the 'beta' version.

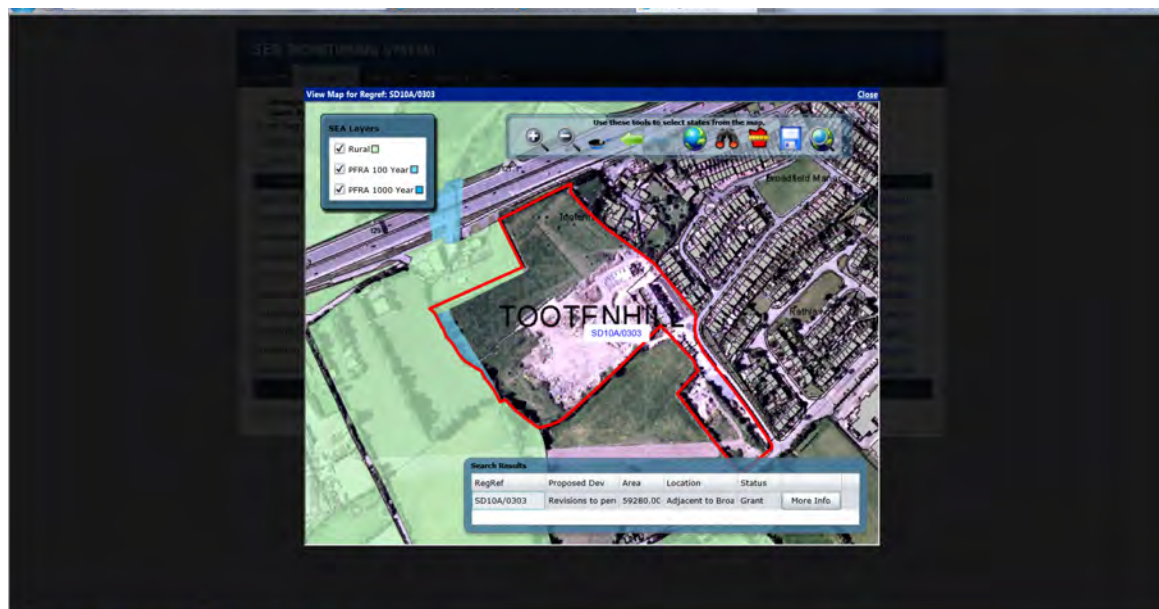


Interconnected & Spatial Data

Enterprise Geographical Information Systems (GIS) continue to be a key component of the organisation's data infrastructure, in the provision of GIS data hosting, systems integration, and web application development services. Enterprise GIS supports South Dublin County Council's strategic objectives by lowering the barriers to the use of advanced geospatial technologies in research, outreach, emergency response, core service provision and strategic planning.

Due to the increasing popularity of the web as a platform for interaction with GIS data, the ability to design and maintain efficient, scalable web mapping applications has risen to prominence as a key component of the IT Department's service portfolio.

2011, saw the launch of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Monitoring System in South Dublin County Council. The system was developed in-house and is a web-based GIS Development Management Monitoring system aimed at capturing critical data at the planning decision stage, ultimately leading to evidence-based policy and review. At a basic level, the system records a proposed development's perceived impact against layers of spatial data that have been categorised as environmentally sensitive. The system is fully integrated with corporate planning and document management systems.



The SEA Monitoring system, which was the overall winner of the Irish Planning Institutes "Innovative Planning Practices and Procedures Award 2011/2012", was also commended under the Innovation in Technology category in the Chambers Ireland "Excellence in Local Government Awards 2011".

The IT Department will continue to evaluate emerging technologies to establish best value through the appropriate use of Open Source solutions. Research and test software development is ongoing into the use of mobile devices to capture spatial data, including location and image. Test applications are already being piloted by various outdoor teams.

Data Security

Protecting the organisation's data resources presents dynamic and evolving challenges, many related simply to how systems are used. During 2011, the IT Department deployed new policies, procedures and guidelines to improve the maintenance of a secure computing environment for staff and citizens. Vigilance relating to the technical security of networks and systems continues to guide daily work. All activity is predicated on strong and proactive understanding and implementation of our data protection obligations.

SAN Upgrade

2011 saw a significant redesign and increase in the capacity of the storage area network (SAN), in support of new network infrastructure, consolidation and services in areas such as server virtualisation, enterprise systems database developments, applications projects and departmental file sharing. Off-site disaster recovery, incorporating additional SAN capacity was also successfully delivered and commissioned during the same period.

Wi-Fi

The expansion of Wi-Fi coverage continues, with free service availability throughout SDCCs corporate offices and now at many of SDCC's community facilities and parks. As facility renovation projects continue to reshape our services, wireless networks are enabled to optimise coverage and capacity.

Heaviest usage of the service by the public was recorded at SDCC libraries, where in excess of 27,000 Wi-Fi sessions were recorded during 2011.

The Information Technology Department, in conjunction with other Directorates continues to examine the feasibility of Wi-Fi rollout to more locations. An extensive wireless LAN upgrade at County Hall is ongoing as more staff choose secure wireless connectivity for mobility and convenience.

Other Developments

Significant developments during 2011 included system enhancements to corporate applications including Customer Care System, Performance Management System, Risk Register and Infrastructural Projects Systems.

The following websites were launched during 2011:-

Public Arts Database

<http://www.southdublin.ie/artsworks/index.aspx>

South Dublin History website

www.southdublinhistory.ie

Choice Based Letting for Housing Applicants

<https://cbl.southdublin.ie>

Childrens Services

<http://connect.southdublin.ie/children/>

Social Credits

www.socialcredits.ie

A number of online surveys and application forms were developed for various projects including the Travel Smart Initiative, Local Agenda 21 & Local Area Plan submissions.

An upgrade of the data backup environment was carried out as well as upgrades to anti-virus system, helpdesk management system and remote access services.

Departmental goals and objectives for 2012 provide both continuity and new challenges in the provision of appropriate enterprise systems, technologies and applications that expand and broaden services and functionality, in support of the corporate mission.

Finance

The Finance Department is responsible for the financial operations in the Council and in particular ensures that adequate arrangements are in place to finance revenue and capital activity. Responsibilities include budgeting, financial reporting, treasury and cashflow management, the implementation of a framework of internal controls to minimise financial risk and liaison with external audit.

The range of services provided by the Finance Department includes:

- Financial control, cashflow & treasury management
- Preparation of the Annual Budget
- Preparation of the Annual Financial Statement
- Preparation of Quarterly Reports
- Administration of general ledger and main financial systems
- Payroll administration
- Commercial Rates - billing & collection
- Non-Domestic Water Charges - billing & collection
- Entry Year Property Levy - billing & collection
- Non Principal Private Residence Charge - collection
- Management of the purchase to pay process
- Insurance and claims administration
- Cash office operations
- Debtor Management

The Finance Team

The operational plan for the Finance Department included the following objectives in 2011:

- The timely preparation of the 2011 Annual Financial Statement in the standard format specified by the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government and in accordance with Local Authority Accounting in Ireland, Code of Practice and Accounting Regulations
- To liaise with the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government and provide financial and non-financial information as required
- To monitor, control and report the council's activities in the context of EU/IMF financial requirements and the General Government balance (GGB).
- To prepare the Annual Budget 2012 in accordance with the Local Government Act 2001 and the Local Government (Financial Procedures and Audit) Regulations 2002
- To manage cashflow so that funding is available as required for day-to-day expenditure on the Revenue and Capital Accounts and investment opportunities are maximised.
- To liaise with the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government when opportune to maximise allocations from the Local Government Fund and other state funds
- To manage, maintain and develop the Agresso Financial Management System

Annual Financial Statement

The Annual Financial Statement 2010 was presented in a web enabled format to the Members at the June 2011 council meeting and subsequently submitted to the Department of the Environment, Community, and Local Government. The 2010 audit opinion and report

were considered by the members in committee in January 2012 and noted by members at the February 2012 council meeting.

Quarterly Reports

Under the EU/IMF agreement there are additional reporting requirements which were identified in the document 'Ireland Memorandum of Understanding on SPECIFIC ECONOMIC POLICY CONDITIONALITY' dated 3rd December 2010. Annex1: Provision of Data specifically states that quarterly data on main revenue and expenditure items of local government is to be provided to the Department of Environment, Community & Local Government by all local authorities within 60 days of the quarter end. The reports required are:

Revenue Report which gives details of the revenue account expenditure and income for the year to each quarter end against the year's budget.

Capital Report which gives details of the capital account opening balances, expenditure and income and closing balances for the year to each quarter end.

Debtors Report which gives details of transactions for each category of debtor for the year to each quarter end.

Loan Report which gives a detailed forecast of interest and principal repayments on all existing and approved borrowings.

Payroll/Superannuation Report which gives details of payroll and pension related payments for the period.

These reports were all submitted to DECLG within the specified timeframes for the 4 quarters of 2011.

Annual Budget

The Annual Budget for 2012 - prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act, 2001, and the Local Government (Financial Procedures and Audit) Regulations 2002 - was adopted by the Council on 15th December 2011.

Commercial Rates

Bills issued for commercial rates totaled €124,550,859 for 2011. The total collected during 2011 was €110,736,605 leaving arrears of €38,615,603 for collection at year end. The 74.1% collection for this income source in 2011 was consistent with the national trend and reflected the difficult economic climate for business and business dependant incomes.

Entry Year Property Levy (PEL)

Entry year property levies of €207,740 were billed in 2011 for newly constructed properties. The collection from this source was €172,085. The overall collection rate amounted to 79%

Non Domestic Water Charges

The total value of water bills issued for 2011 was €7,949,263 and cash collection was €8,525,032.

Non Principal Private Residence Charge (NPPR)

The Local Government (Charges) Act 2009 introduced a €200 annual charge for Non-Principal Private Residences. The €200 charge is payable to the local authority in whose area the Non-Principal Private Residence is located. The charge is self-assessed and owners are required to

register the property and pay the charge. The legislation also provides for the imposition of late payment penalties which accumulate monthly once the charge is overdue. The amount collected in 2011 in respect of the NPPR Charge was €2,509,200.

VAT

A new VAT rate of 9% was introduced on 1 July 2011 for services including hospitality and tourism. Software was implemented to facilitate this additional VAT rate.

European Communities

(Late Payment in Commercial transactions) Regulations 2002

EU Regulations governing late payment of commercial transactions were enforced with effect from the 7th 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 2011 was €5,180.54.

From 1st October 2011 all public bodies are required to report on a quarterly basis on their performance in relation to payment of invoices in the following categories: within 15 days of receipt; within 16 to 30 days of receipt and in excess of 30 days of receipt. Reports for 3rd and fourth quarter for 2011 were submitted to DECLG and are available on the Council's website.

Revenue Commissioner Report on Payments

The Revenue Commissioners required a new annual report under Section 891 (b) of the Taxes Consolidation Act 1997 to be submitted by Public Bodies, including all Local Authorities. The report provides details of suppliers who were paid €1,000 or more in 2011. It excludes payments subject to Relevant Contract Tax or PAYE and some other categories. We are required to include the VAT No. / PPSN for each supplier and also to furnish retrospective returns from 2008 to 2010.

These returns were submitted to the Revenue Commissioners within the specified timeframe in 2011.

Appendix 1

Financial Charts and Graphs

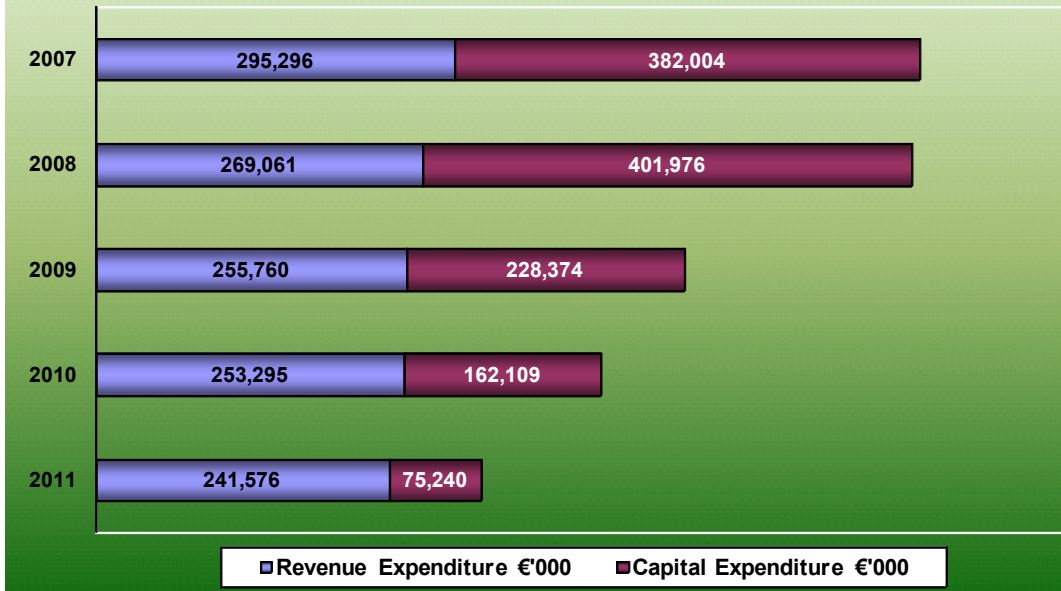
**South Dublin County Council
Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2011**

	2011	2010
	€'000	€'000
Fixed Assets & Work in Progress	3,747,026	3,737,652
Long Term Debtors	210,291	214,473
Net Current Assets	39,378	82,399
Long Term Creditors	<u>(255,034)</u>	<u>(269,634)</u>
Net Assets	<u>3,741,661</u>	<u>3,764,890</u>
 <i>Financed by:</i>		
Work in Progress & Capitalisation Account	3,714,865	3,696,721
Revenue Reserve - Specific	10,805	11,528
Revenue Reserve - General	12,093	12,083
Other Balances	<u>3,898</u>	<u>44,558</u>
	<u>3,741,661</u>	<u>3,764,890</u>

**INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT STATEMENT
FOR YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2011**

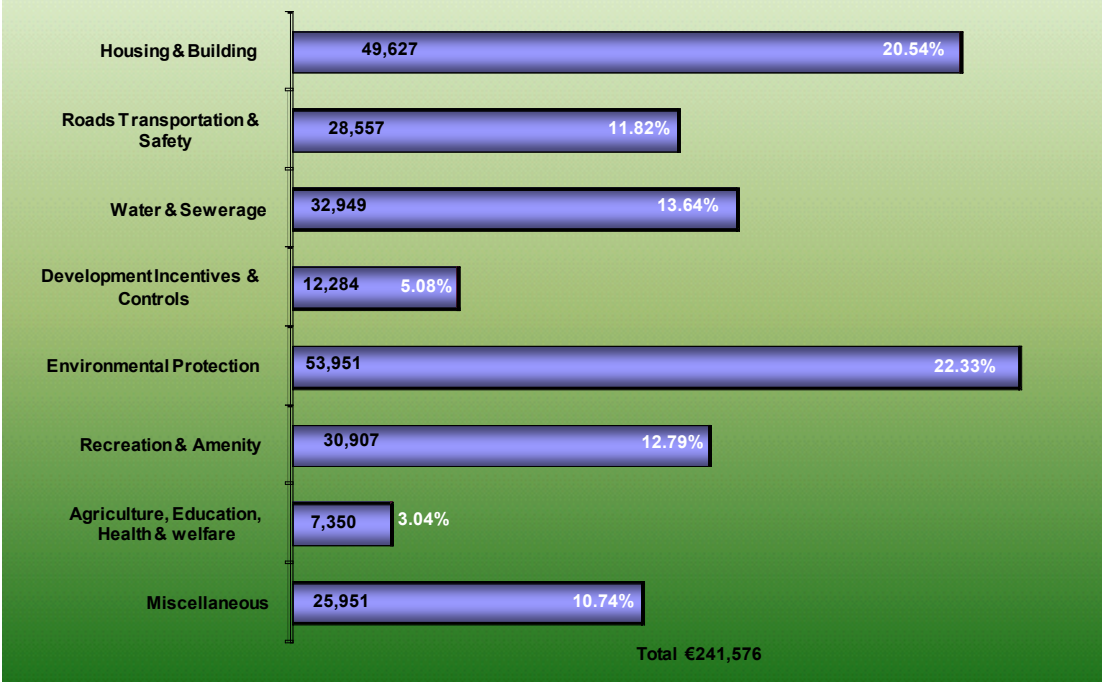
	Gross Expenditure	Income	Net Cost
	2011 €'000	2011 €'000	2011 €'000
Housing & Building	46,567	46,139	(429)
Roads Transportation & Safety	27,150	9,084	(18,066)
Water & Sewerage	32,880	8,093	(24,787)
Development Incentives & Controls	12,102	2,840	(9,263)
Environmental Protection	44,248	12,405	(31,844)
Recreation & Amenity	30,267	5,197	(25,070)
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	7,333	6,009	(1,325)
Miscellaneous	24,741	3,708	(21,033)
Total Expenditure/Income	225,290	93,473	
Net cost of programmes to be funded from Rates & Local Government Fund			(131,816)
Rates Income			125,551
Local Government Fund - Grant Income			18,088
Pension Related Deduction			3,537
Net Transfers to/from Reserves			(15,349)
Surplus/(Deficit) for Year			10
General Reserve @ 1st January 2011			12,083
General Reserve @ 31st December 2011			12,093

Total Expenditure, Revenue & Capital (€'000)



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

Revenue Expenditure 2011 by Division (€'000)



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

DRAFT SERVICE INDICATORS* (Awaiting Verified Figures from the Local Government Management Agency)

South Dublin County Council

F: Fire Service - Fire Services are provided by Dublin City Council for the four Local Authorities in the Dublin Area

2011

F.3 Fire Prevention

The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report and in order to compile this information, local authorities should submit the following data:

A. Total number of fire safety certificate applications Received

93

B. Total number of fire safety certificate applications processed (including cases deemed invalid

110

C. Total number of applications deemed invalid

0

CP: COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

CP.1 Participation in local Youth Council/Comhairle na nÓg scheme

The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report:

Percentage of local schools and youth groups involved in the local Youth Council/ Comhairle na nÓg scheme

28.01

CP.2 Groups registered with the Community and Voluntary Forum

The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report and in order to compile this information, local authorities should submit the following data:

Number of groups registered with the Community and Voluntary Forum

1012

C: Corporate Issues

C.1 Working Days lost to Sickness

The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report

A. Percentage of working days lost to sickness absence through certified leave

3.89

B. Percentage of working days lost to sickness absence through uncertified leave

0.70

C.2 Staff Training and Development

Expenditure on Training and Development as a percentage of total payroll costs

3.75

E: Environmental Services

Water

E.1 Unaccounted For Water

Unaccounted for water (UFW) as a percentage of total volume of water supplied under the water supply schemes that the local authority is responsible for

16.46

E.1a Drinking Water Analysis

Percentage of drinking water analysis results in compliance with statutory requirements with regard to public schemes

99.80

Waste Management

E.2 Waste Segregation

A. Percentage of households who receive a waste collection service and are provided with segregated waste collection for dry recyclables

100

B. Percentage of households who receive a waste collection service and are provided with segregated waste collection for organics

100

E: Environmental Services

Waste Management

E3: Housing Waste Sent for Recycling

A. Percentage of household waste collected from kerbside, which is sent for recycling

43.66

B. Tonnage of household waste collected from

banks, civic amenity centres, transfer stations and other recycling facilities)

7262.06

C. Tonnage of household waste recycled, which arises from waste collected from recycling facilities (i.e. bring banks, civic amenity centres, transfer stations and other recycling facilities

10297.67

E4: Household Waste Sent for Landfill

The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report

A. The percentage of household waste collected which is sent to landfill

56.34

B. The tonnage of household waste collected which is sent to landfill

9371.17

E5: Recycling Facilities

Glass

A. The number of Bring Sites for recycling

46

B. The number of Civic Amenity Centres for recycling

2

C. The total number of facilities for recycling

48

D. The number of locations for recycling per 5,000 of Population

0.91

Cans

E. The number of Bring Sites for recycling

30

F. The number of Civic Amenity Centres for recycling

2

G. The total number of facilities for recycling

32

H. The number of locations for recycling per 5,000 of Population

0.60

Textiles

I. The number of Bring Sites for recycling	38
J. The number of Civic Amenity Centres for recycling	2
K. The total number of facilities for recycling	40
L. The number of locations for recycling per 5,000 of population	0.75

Batteries

M. The number of Bring Sites for recycling	187
N. The number of Civic Amenity Centres for recycling	2
O. The total number of facilities for recycling	189
P. The number of locations for recycling per 5,000 of Population	3.56

Oils

Q. The number of Bring Sites for recycling	0
R. The number of Civic Amenity Centres for recycling	2
S. The total number of facilities for recycling	2
T. The number of locations for recycling per 5,000 of population	0.04

In order to compile this information, local authorities should submit the following data

E6: Recycling Facilities

The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report

U. The number of Bring Sites for recycling	65
V. The number of Civic Amenity Centres for recycling	2
W. The total number of facilities for recycling	67

X. The number of locations for recycling per 5,000 of Population

0.04

Litter

E7: Litter Prevention and Enforcement

A. Number of full-time litter wardens

6

B. Number of part-time litter wardens

0

C. Number of litter wardens (both full- and part-time) per 5,000 population

0.11

D. Number of on-the-spot fines issued

712

E. Number of on-the-spot fines paid

247

F. Number of prosecution cases taken because of nonpayment of on-the-spot fines

208

G. Number of prosecutions secured in cases taken because of non-payment of on-the-spot fines

31

H. Number of notices issued (under sections 9, 15, 16, 17 and 20 of the Litter Pollution Act 1997)

119

I. Total number of prosecutions taken (all prosecutions under the Litter Acts 1997 to 2003)

211

J. Total number of prosecutions secured (all prosecutions under the Litter Acts 1997 to 2003)

40

K. Percentage of areas in the local authority that are unpolluted (i.e. litter-free)

L. Percentage of areas in the local authority that are slightly polluted with litter

M. Percentage of areas in the local authority that are moderately polluted with litter

N. Percentage of areas in the local authority that are significantly polluted with litter

O. Percentage of areas in the local authority that are grossly polluted with litter

E8: Environmental Complaints and Enforcement

A. Total number of cases subject to complaints concerning environmental pollution (relating to waste, litter, water pollution, noise pollution, air pollution)

3471

B. Number of complaints investigated

3471

C. Number of complaints resolved where no further action was necessary

2616

D. Number of enforcement procedures taken

912

E9: Percentage of schools participating in environmental campaigns

A. Percentage of primary schools participating in environmental campaigns

90.0

B. Percentage of secondary schools participating in environmental campaigns

88.57

H: Housing

H1: Housing Vacancies

A. The total number of dwellings in local authority stock

9035.5

B. The total number of dwellings, excluding those subject to major refurbishment projects

9033.255

C. The overall percentage of dwellings that are empty (excluding those subject to major refurbishment projects)

0.96

D. The percentage of empty dwellings unavailable for letting

78.61

E- The percentage of empty dwellings available for letting

21.39

H2: Average Time Taken to Re-let Available Dwellings

The average time taken in weeks from the date of vacation of dwelling to the date when all the necessary repairs are carried out which are deemed necessary to re-let the dwelling

14.15

The average time taken (in weeks) from the works (above) being completed to the date of the first rent debit

2.13

H3: Housing Repairs

Number of repairs completed as a percentage of the number of valid repair requests received

93.10

H4: Traveller Accommodation

Total number of Traveller families accommodated as a percentage of the targets set in the local Traveller accommodation programme

142.11

H5: Enforcement of standards in the private rented sector

A. Total number of registered tenancies

9522

B. Number of dwelling units inspected

877

C. Number of inspections carried out

954

D. Number of dwellings inspected as percentage of registered tenancies (i.e. B as percentage of A)

9.21

H6: Grants to adapt housing for the needs of disabled people

A. Average time taken (in weeks) to process applications under the Mobility Aids Grant Scheme, including any necessary inspection(s) from the date of the receipt of a valid application to the date of a decision on the application

7.18

B. Average time taken (in weeks) to process applications under Housing Adaptation Grant for People with a Disability, including any necessary inspection(s) from the date of the receipt of a valid application to the date of a decision on the application

13.10

H7: Pre-Tenancy Familiarisation Courses

A. Total number of new local authority tenants

299

B. Percentage of new local authority tenants who have been offered pre-tenancy familiarisation courses

22.07

L: Library Services

L.1 Library Public Opening Hours

A. Average number of opening hours per week for fulltime Libraries	45.2
B. Average number of opening hours per week for part - time libraries (where applicable)	22.64
C. Percentage of full time libraries that have lunchtime Openings	71.4
D. Percentage of full time libraries that have evening Openings	71.4
E. Percentage of full time libraries that have Saturday Openings	71.4

L.2 Library Visits

Number of visits to full time libraries per 1,000 Population	3718.12
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L.3 Library Stock

The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report

A. Annual expenditure on stock per head of population (county/city wide)	3.25
B. Number of items issued per head of population (county/city wide) for books	3.30
C. Number of items issued per head of population (county/city wide) for other items	1.41

L.4 Internet Access through Libraries

The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report

Number of Internet sessions provided per 1,000 Population	898.12
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In order to compile this information, local authorities should submit the following data

Total number of Internet sessions provided

238157

M: Motor Taxation - Motor Tax services are provided by Dublin City Council for the four Local Authorities in the Dublin Area

P: Planning

P.1 Planning Applications - Decision Making

Individual Houses

A. Number of applications decided

54

B. Number of decisions in Column A which were decided within 8 weeks

35

C. Number of decisions in Column A which required the submission of further information

19

D. Number of decisions in Column A where an extension of time was agreed to by the applicant, under section 34(9) of the Planning and development Act 2000

0

E. Average length of time taken (in days) to decide an application where further information was sought

77

F. Percentage of applications granted

64.81

G. Percentage of applications refused

35.19

H. Percentage of cases where the decision was confirmed, with or without variations, by An Bord Pleanala

78.57

I. Percentage of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanala

21.43

**P.1 Planning Applications - Decision Making
NEW HOUSING DEVELOPMENT**

The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report

A. Number of applications decided

12

B. Number of decisions in Column A which were decided within 8 weeks

7

C. Number of decisions in Column A which required the submission of further information	5
D. Number of decisions in Column A where an extension of time was agreed to by the applicant, under section 34(9) of the Planning and development Act 2000	0
E. Average length of time taken (in days) to decide an application where further information was sought	73
F. Percentage of applications granted	66.67
G. Percentage of applications refused	33.33
H. Percentage of cases where the decision was confirmed, with or without variations, by An Bord Pleanala	62.50
I. Percentage of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanala	37.50

**P.1 Planning Applications - Decision Making
Other: not requiring Environment Impact Assessment**

The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report:

A. Number of applications decided	611
B. Number of decisions in Column A which were decided within 8 weeks	503
C. Number of decisions in Column A which required the submission of further information	108
D. Number of decisions in Column A where an extension of time was agreed to by the applicant, under section 34(9) of the Planning and development Act 2000	0
E. Average length of time taken (in days) to decide an application where further information was sought	74
F. Percentage of applications granted	89.2
G. Percentage of applications refused	10.8
H. Percentage of cases where the decision was confirmed, with or without variations, by An Bord Pleanala	65.38

I. Percentage of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanala

34.62

P.1 Planning Applications - Decision Making
Other: requiring Environment Impact Assessment

The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report:

A. Number of applications decided

1

B. Number of decisions in Column A which were decided within 8 weeks

0

C. Number of decisions in Column A which required the submission of further information

1

D. Number of decisions in Column A where an extension of time was agreed to by the applicant, under section 34(9) of the Planning and development Act 2000

0

E. Average length of time taken (in days) to decide an application where further information was sought

117

F. Percentage of applications granted

100

G. Percentage of applications refused

0

H. Percentage of cases where the decision was confirmed, with or without variations, by An Bord Pleanala

50

I. Percentage of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanala

50

P.2 Planning Enforcement

The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report and in order to compile this information local authorities should submit the following data

A. Total number of cases subject to complaints that were investigated

333

B. Total number of cases subject to complaints that were dismissed

178

C. Total number of cases subject to complaints that were resolved through negotiations

143

D. Number of enforcement procedures taken through warning letters

263

E. Number of enforcement procedures taken through enforcement notices

117

F. Number of prosecutions

19

P.3 Planning Public opening hours

The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report and in order to compile this information, local authorities should submit the following data:

Average number of opening hours per week

33.9

P.4 Pre-Planning Consultation

The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report and in order to compile this information, local authorities should submit the following data:

A. Number of pre-planning consultation meetings held

262

B. Average length of time (in days) from request for consultation with local authority to actual formal meeting for pre-planning consultation

15

P.5 New Buildings inspected

The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report

Buildings inspected as a percentage of new buildings notified to the local authority

17.45

P.6 Taking Estates in Charge

The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report:

A- The number of residential estates for which the planning permission has expired, in respect of which formal written requests for taking in charge (from residents or developers), were on hands at the beginning of the year

18

B- Number of estates that were taken in charge in the year in question

6

C- Number of dwellings in respect of column B	954
D- Percentage of estates in were request was made to be taken in charge not completed to satisfaction of the planning authority in line with the planning permission	77.78
E- Number of estates in column D in respect of which enforcement action was taken in the year in question and/or the bond was called in	9
F- Number of estates in column D in respect of which works were undertaken by the authority to bring the estate to taking in charge standard	1

Recreational Services

Rec.1 Children's Playgrounds

The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report

A. Number of children's playgrounds per 1,000 population directly provided by the local authority	0.05
B. Number of children's playgrounds per 1,000 population facilitated by the local authority	0

Rec.2 Local Authority-Facilitated Leisure Facilities

The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report

Number of visitors to local authority-facilitated leisure facilities per 1,000 population	1926.87
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Revenue Collection

Rev.1 House Rent

The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report

A. Amount collected at year end as a percentage of amount due from House Rent	71.87
B. Percentage of arrears on House Rent that are 4-6 weeks old	1.43
C. Percentage of arrears on House Rent that are 6-12 weeks old	5.53

D. Percentage of arrears on House Rent that are more than 12 weeks old

91.27

Rev.2 Housing Loans

A. Amount collected at year end as a percentage of amount due from Housing Loans

91.38

B. Percentage of arrears on Housing Loans that are 1 month old

7.81

C. Percentage of arrears on Housing Loans that are 2-3 months old

8.19

D. Percentage of arrears on Housing Loans that are more than 3 months old

77.81

Rev.3 Commercial Rates

The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report and in order to compile this information, local authorities should submit the following data

Amount collected at year-end as a percentage of amount due from Commercial rates

74

Rev.4 Refuse Charges

The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report and in order to compile this information, local authorities should submit the following data

Percentage of households paying refuse charges including waivers at year end

N/A

Rev.5 Non-Domestic Water Charges

The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report and in order to compile this information, local authorities should submit the following data:

Amount collected at year end as a percentage of amount due for Non-Domestic Water Charges

53

R: Roads

R1: Roads Restoration Programme

The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report and in order to compile this information, local authorities should submit the following data

Number of kilometres of local and regional roads improved and maintained under the Restoration Programme per annum

30.01

Number of kilometres of local and regional roads constructed under the specific improvement grants

2.75



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