

Community Infrastructure and Open Space

Vision

The creation of healthy, inclusive and sustainable communities where all generations have local access to social, community and recreational facilities, and parks and green spaces, to suit their needs.

8.0 Introduction

The creation of sustainable, healthy, and socially inclusive neighbourhoods is one of the cross-cutting themes of the County Development Plan. A quality public realm, access to parks, open spaces, sports and recreational facilities are crucial elements of quality places and are central to our health and wellbeing. In addition, essential services such as healthcare, childcare and education along with culture and the arts, all have a significant role to play in our quality of life. All of these services and facilities should ideally be located within each neighbourhood to provide easy access and optimise the opportunity for people to walk or cycle to them. Policies and objectives throughout the County Development Plan will work to achieve this goal over time.

Community infrastructure, for the purposes of the County Development Plan, includes community centres and halls; libraries and cultural facilities; places of worship and burial grounds; educational, healthcare and childcare facilities; and play, sports and recreational facilities including greenways. Public open space includes large regional parks such as Corkagh, Tymon and Griffeen Valley Parks and smaller neighbourhood and local parks and publicly accessible green spaces.

The Council will seek to provide, where it is within its remit, community infrastructure that meets the social and recreational requirements of each neighbourhood within the County. Where provision is the responsibility of developers, government departments or other agencies, the Council will work closely with these stakeholders to facilitate and support the provision of such community infrastructure. The Council will seek to ensure that community facilities are physically integrated within urban centres and residential and employment areas to optimise access, function and use; and to ensure that they are designed to incorporate universal accessibility insofar as possible, to cater for all ages and abilities.

8.1 Community Infrastructure and Climate Action

The way in which the Council provides community infrastructure and open space can help us to tackle climate change by reducing our demand for energy and our carbon emissions. For example, parks and open spaces and greenways intertwined within the County's green infrastructure network offer great opportunities for carbon sequestration (capturing and storing carbon). The provision of parks, open space and social, community and recreational facilities within walking and cycling distances of communities and on public transport routes will encourage active travel and a shift away from car-based transport. Together, these measures will assist South Dublin County in achieving its climate action targets.

8.2 Planning Policy Context

Development Plan policies and objectives must be consistent with national and regional planning policy as set out in the National Planning Framework (NPF) and Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES). A number of objectives in these documents are particularly relevant to the area of social inclusion and the provision of community facilities and services:

- **National Strategic Outcome 10 of the NPF** is *'Access to quality childcare, education and health services'*;

- **National Policy Objective 28 of the NPF** requires planning authorities to *'Plan for a more diverse and socially inclusive society that targets equality of opportunity and a better quality of life for all citizens, through improved integration and greater accessibility in the delivery of sustainable communities and the provision of associated services';*

- **Regional Policy Objective 9.14 of the RSES states** *'Local authorities shall seek to support the planned provision of easily accessible social, community, cultural and recreational facilities and ensure that all communities have access to a range of facilities that meet the needs of the communities they serve'*.

There are many other relevant national and regional policy objectives. These are referenced by number within individual Development Plan policies and objectives in this chapter and are set out in full at Appendix 7: *National and Regional Objectives*.

8.3 Social Inclusion and Community Development

The County Development Plan is primarily a spatial land-use plan. However, it has the potential through its policies and objectives to impact positively on the lives of citizens through facilitating the provision of social and community facilities which are vital to quality of life and wellbeing. Mainstream approaches to planning, design and development may not always meet the needs of minority and marginalised groups and more focused consideration is sometimes required as outlined in the various strategies set out in section 8.3.1 below. It is also important to ensure that the needs of different generations and abilities including children, younger people, older persons and those with disabilities are met to the greatest extent possible.

8.3.1 Local Social Inclusion Plans and Strategies

Social inclusion is a priority that cuts across many of the Council's functions. The Council has been involved in the preparation of several local plans and strategies relevant to social inclusion including:

- ***South Dublin County Local Economic and Community Plan* (2016-2021)**: This document was prepared by the Local Community Development Committee

(LCDC) (see next section). It identifies policies and actions to support and strengthen economic and community development, and to contribute to building sustainable communities and a strong local economy in partnership with other economic and community development stakeholders.

- ***Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme* (2018-2022)**: This programme, which is managed through the LCDC, provides funding to tackle poverty and social exclusion through local engagement and partnerships between disadvantaged individuals, community organisations and public sector agencies.
- ***South Dublin County Council Integration Strategy* (2019-2023) – A More Inclusive County**: This is a strategy to ensure that the experience of migrants living and working in South Dublin County is positive and that services, advice and assistance are available and accessible to all.
- ***South Dublin County Traveller Accommodation Programme* (2019-2024)**: This document sets out the Council's plans for the provision of accommodation for the Travelling community over a five-year period.
- ***Strategic Plan for Housing People with a Disability* (2021-2026)**: This plan will outline the Council's aim to facilitate access for disabled people to the appropriate range of housing and related support services. The goal is to meet the identified housing needs of disabled people locally, whether they are currently living in the community and / or in a congregated setting. Housing will be delivered in an integrated and sustainable manner and the plan will promote equality of opportunity, individual choice and independent living.
- ***South Dublin Age Friendly Strategy* (2020-2024)**: The objectives of the South Dublin County Age Friendly Programme are to improve the health and well-being of older people in the County; increase participation in the social, economic and cultural life of the community; and encourage effective partnerships between local statutory, private and voluntary organisations.
- ***A Strategy for a Healthy South Dublin* (2019-2022)**: This document is the Healthy Ireland South Dublin County strategic plan. It identifies 38 actions under seven thematic areas which correspond with the National Healthy Ireland Strategy including actions to promote physical and mental wellbeing. Together these actions provide a roadmap for improving health in South Dublin County.
- ***South Dublin County Sports Partnership Strategic Plan* (2017-2022)**: The aim of the Sports Partnership is to support increased participation in sport and health enhancing physical activity by the community of South Dublin County, regardless of their background, age or ability. The strategy focuses on 3 key action areas; the education of coaches and sport leaders, the delivery of activities to the community, especially the more disadvantaged groups of people, and the provision of information and support clubs, schools, community organisation and the general public.

8.3.2 Local Economic and Community Plan

The Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) includes regional policy objectives (RPO 9.14 and 9.18) to work collaboratively with the Local Community Development Committees (LCDCs) and to support Local Economic and Community Plans (LECPs). This is facilitated through the use of spatial policies in County Development Plans to reduce the number of citizens in or at risk of poverty and

social exclusion and to plan for social infrastructure needs.

A primary function of the LCDC is to develop, implement and monitor a six-year Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP). *The South Dublin County LECP* (2016-2021) plays a pivotal role in economic and community development within the County and identifies policies and actions to support, strengthen and develop both economic and community facets, to contribute to building sustainable communities and a strong local economy in partnership with other economic and community development stakeholders.

While the County Development Plan (CDP) provides a framework for the proper planning and sustainable development of the County at a spatial level, the LECP provides a supportive framework for the economic and community development of South Dublin County. Consequently, the statutory policies and objectives of the Development Plan and the high-level goals and objectives of the LECP should be complementary and consistent. Consideration was given to the LECP during the preparation of the County Development Plan and regard had to relevant LECP goals and objectives to ensure a co-ordinated approach. A new LECP is due to be prepared during the lifetime of this Plan and there will be a continued need for complementarity between the Plans.

Policy COS1: Social Inclusion and Community Development
Promote social inclusion and community development and encourage active participation and social integration of minority and marginalised groups, consistent with RPO 9.1 and RPO 9.2 of the RSES.
COS1 Objective 1: To provide appropriate and accessible community facilities to meet the needs of all citizens of the County, comprising of a fast-growing young population and including an ageing population, consistent with NPOs 28 and 30 of the NPF.
COS1 Objective 2: To support the implementation of the *South Dublin County Local Economic and Community Plan* (2016-2021 or superseding Plan) through the spatial planning policies and objectives of the County Development Plan, in collaboration with the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC), consistent with RPO 9.18 of the RSES.

COS1 Objective 3:
To support and facilitate the implementation of local plans and programmes (and any superseding documents) with a social inclusion and community development focus including:

- *Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme* (2018-2022);
- *South Dublin County Council Integration Strategy* (2019-2023) – *A More Inclusive County;*
- *The South Dublin County Traveller Accommodation Programme* (2019-2024);
- *South Dublin Disability Accommodation Strategy;*
- *South Dublin Age Friendly Strategy* (2020-2024);
- *A Strategy for a Healthy South Dublin* (2019-2022);
- *South Dublin County Sports Partnership Strategic Plan* (2017-2022).

COS1 Objective 4:
To support the improvement, maintenance, upgrade and refurbishment of existing community based facilities and changing rooms within the County to meet current and future needs.

COS1 Objective 5:
To promote South Dublin County Council as a LGBT safe and friendly County.

8.4 Social / Community Infrastructure

The Council recognises that the provision of good quality social and community facilities in existing and developing areas is a key element in placemaking and in the creation of sustainable and socially cohesive communities. Social / community infrastructure is a vital part of all neighbourhoods and contributes greatly to the social fabric and quality of life. Community facilities serve as focal points for the neighbourhoods they serve and provide opportunities for interaction through local community, sporting, cultural, the arts, educational and social events. These activities increase personal well-being and add to our sense of place and local identity. Good quality community facilities can also boost the attractiveness of an area for those who choose to live, work or invest in it.

8.4.1 Social / Community Infrastructure Audit

A Social / Community Infrastructure Audit (SIA) of the County was undertaken in order to inform the preparation of the County Development Plan. The purpose of the SIA was:

- To review the availability of existing social / community facilities within South Dublin County;
- To determine future requirements for certain types of facilities based on anticipated growth in population; and
- To identify where future investment may be required.

The following social infrastructure facilities have been examined and standards applied to ensure alignment with projected population growth for new development areas:

- **Primary Care Centres** – 1 centre per 7,000-10,000 population in accordance with Department of Health standards;
- **Childcare Facilities** – 1 facility providing for 20 places per 75 dwellings in new residential areas in accordance with the *Childcare Facilities Guidelines for Planning Authorities* (2001), subject to certain flexibility which may be applied under Circular PL3 / 2016;
- **Schools** – Department of Education standard that 11.5% of the population will require a primary school place and 7.5% will require a post primary school place;
- **Community Centres** – 1 large multifunctional centre of approximately 1,200-1,800 sq m per 8,000 population and / or smaller local community centres (350-650 sq m) as may be identified by the local authority to meet local need. Such local need may be determined by demographic, accessibility or other factors;
- **Public Open Space and Parks** – 2.4 hectares per 1,000 population.

The SIA has informed a summary of existing and planned community facility provision for each neighbourhood area which is contained in the relevant section of Appendix 12: *Our Neighbourhoods*.

The Council will seek to protect and enhance existing facilities and ensure that an appropriate range of social / community facilities is provided in all neighbourhoods, taking account of need and the population growth targets identified in Chapter 2: *Core Strategy and Settlement Strategy*.

8.4.2 Social / Community Infrastructure Delivery

The Council is committed to the delivery of social and community infrastructure and will continue to pursue a range of funding and delivery mechanisms. These include:

- Funding through the Council's financial resources, including development levy contributions;
- Grant funding such as the Urban Regeneration Development Fund (URDF) and Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund (LIHAF);
- Supporting other public agencies such as the Health Services Executive (HSE) or Department of Education (DoE);
- Working in partnership with other public and private sector stakeholders, where appropriate.

A Development Contribution Scheme (DCS) is prepared under section 48 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended). Where a planning permission is granted (with certain exceptions), the DCS allows the Council to require by planning condition, a financial contribution by the applicant towards projects as set out in the Scheme.

The Development Contribution Scheme (2021-2025) identifies a broad range of County-wide community infrastructure and open space projects for funding including community centres, parks upgrades, disability accessibility works and sports facilities.

The DCS may be reviewed to align with policies and / or objectives of the County Development Plan. South Dublin County Council will continue to work in conjunction with the Department of Education (DoE) to support the provision of new schools in specific areas identified by the DoE Schools Building Programme. This is dealt with in more detail within the section 8.10 below on education facilities. The Council will also continue to proactively engage with developers and other stakeholders to secure the provision of community and social facilities required as part of the phasing of Local Area Plans and Planning Schemes within the County.

8.4.3 Universally Accessible Social / Community Facilities

Universal Design is the concept of creating an environment that can be used by all people, regardless of their age, size, disability or ability. Universal access creates liveable and sustainable neighbourhoods where everyone can live a full and active life as part of the community. Provision of social / community facilities should incorporate a universal design approach, taking account of location, layout and design to ensure maximum accessibility and connectivity to the surrounding area. All proposals should have regard to the provisions of the National Disability Authority's document '*Building for Everyone: A Universal Design Approach – Planning and Policy*' (2012) to ensure accessibility and inclusion for as many different users as possible.

Policy COS2: Social / Community Infrastructure
Support the planned provision of a range of universally accessible and well-connected social, community, cultural and recreational facilities, close to the communities they serve, consistent with RPO 9.14 of the RSES. (See also Chapter 5: *Quality Design and Healthy Placemaking*)
COS2 Objective 1: To support the provision of a wide range of community facilities and to ensure that such facilities are provided in new and existing communities in tandem with housing development, with special consideration for a period of review to adapt to the needs of an increasingly multi-cultural and diverse community, in accordance with the phasing requirements of Local Area Plans and Planning Schemes.
COS2 Objective 2: To continue to work closely with the Health Service Executive, Department of Education and the relevant public bodies and state agencies to meet the necessary provision of primary care centres, childcare facilities, schools, community centres and public open space according to the standards set out in section 8.4.1 of this Plan.

COS2 Objective 3:
To protect and enhance existing community facilities, and to support the development and expansion of new and existing facilities and services, in proximity to the populations they serve, where their need is identified.

COS2 Objective 4:
To support the clustering of community facilities such as community centres, sports and leisure facilities, schools, childcare facilities and open spaces to create multi-purpose community hubs without negatively restricting the range of services provided in any one centre.

COS2 Objective 5:
To promote accessible and inclusive social infrastructure for a range of users by adopting a universal design approach where feasible and to provide for an age friendly society in which people of all ages can live full, active, valued and healthy lives, consistent with RPO 9.12 and RPO 9.13 of the RSES and having regard to *Building for Everyone: A Universal Design Approach – Planning and Policy*' (2012).

COS2 Objective 6:
To ensure that social, community, cultural and recreational facilities are provided in a manner which reduces climate impact by supporting and promoting the following measures:

- → Provision of facilities within walkable distances of communities and on public transport routes;
- → Promotion of walking and cycling and use of public transport via permeability and mobility management measures;
- → Co-location, clustering and sharing of community facilities to increase efficient use and reduce trips;
- → Location, siting and design to promote climate mitigation and adaptation for example, taking advantage of solar gain;
- → Sourcing power from renewables such as wind and solar energy;
- → Use of alternative energy technologies such as heat pumps;
- → Energy-proofing of community buildings;
- → Additional tree planting and adapting management regimes in parks and public open spaces to allow more wild areas in order to increase opportunities for carbon sequestration.

COS2 Objective 7:
To support and facilitate access to public toilet facilities including wheelchair accessible toilet facilities, in community related buildings in Council ownership, in all towns and villages in the County.

COS2 Objective 8:
To include 'changing place' facilities in all community and county buildings being newly constructed and where feasible, where being refurbished, during the lifetime of this County Development Plan.

COS2 Objective 9:
To pilot a project in support of children with special needs and their parents, specifically around the provision of toys, technology and training identified through liaison with healthcare professionals.

COS2 SLO 1:
That Citywest / Fortunestown areas are provided (from within their own community) public, purpose built and suitable amenities including:

- Library;
- Community centre and a community café;
- Accessible playgrounds / playspaces, teenspaces and youth amenities (such as a skate park);
- Designed green spaces including a managed public park with adequate, accessible public seating and that can host festivals and community events;
- Greater biodiversity in the area and more tree coverage;
- Adequate numbers of pitches and clubhouses / pavilions for sports;
- Adequate public childcare and afterschool facilities;
- School sites.

COS2 SLO 2:
To examine the need for increased community infrastructure for the growing populations of Kiltipper, Killinarden, Marlfield, Ellensborough, Aylesbury and Old Bawn in light of recent population growth.

COS2 SLO 3:
To provide for a Garda Station in Clonburris.

8.5 Community Centres

Community centres provide a place to meet and hold social, cultural, educational and recreational activities across all ages and sections of a community, enabling people to get involved in their community and enhance their quality of life.

Community resource centres provide services and supports to local communities, including delivering universal services to families in diverse settings that exist across the County. These centres promote community participation and social inclusion with an emphasis on delivering targeted supports and services at a local level.

The Council has examined community centre provision within the County and in other locations within Ireland, Northern Ireland and Britain, as part of the Social Infrastructure Audit. Having considered this research, the Council will apply a standard of one large district level multi-functional community centre per 8,000 population or smaller centres at a more local level as identified to address specific needs. Needs may be determined on particular local issues including demographics and accessibility. A district level community centre should be approximately 1,200-1,800 sq m in size to accommodate a variety of needs such as a sports hall to facilitate, for example, badminton / basketball / indoor soccer with associated

changing rooms, toilets, storage, offices, meeting rooms, café and children's play area. Local level community centres should generally be between 350-650 sq m in size to accommodate a range of spaces, meeting rooms, toilets, café and children's play area. Where the size of a new development would not, of itself, require a community centre, the Council may seek a pro rata contribution towards a planned new centre.

Policy COS3: Community Centres
Ensure that communities across the county have access to multifunctional and intergenerational community centres that provide a focal point for community activities.
COS3 Objective 1: To investigate, where new provision is required to meet the needs of the population, the feasibility of extending existing community centres on suitable sites, where siting, layout, design, access and other planning considerations allow.
COS3 Objective 2: To ensure the provision of new community centres in new and existing development areas or where provision is the responsibility of the developer, the Council will ensure the developer provides, in proximity to the population they serve and in accordance with the standard of one centre per 8,000 population with a size of approximately 1,200-1,800 sq m, or dependent on specific local demographic or other needs, smaller centres at a more local level, generally between 350-650 sq m in size at the discretion of the Council, or as may be updated by any future community centre strategy carried out by the Council.
COS3 Objective 3: To provide discretion to the Council to require residential or mixed used developments in new development areas to provide a pro rata contribution towards the provision of a community centre, in accordance with the standards set out in COS3 Objective 2 and in line with the Development Contribution Scheme.
COS3 Objective 4: To ensure that community buildings are multi-functional and adaptable, can be used by all age cohorts (intergenerational), providing for indoor and supporting outdoor use, for example, café seating areas, and are accessible to as many different users as possible including our teens and young people.
COS3 Objective 5: To support and facilitate the development of a Community Centre Strategy to include the assessment of existing community floorspace / facilities within the County, to identify gaps in provision and to ensure new community centres are provided in existing and new development areas having regard to the Social Infrastructure Audit carried out for the Development Plan.
COS3 Objective 6: To support and facilitate the provision of community resource centres.

COS3 SLO 1: To facilitate a one stop site for Quarryvale Family Resource Centre.
COS3 SLO 2: To deliver a community centre / community facilities within Citywest as part of the delivery of infrastructure identified in the Fortunestown Local Area Plan.
COS3 SLO 3: To proactively engage with the Esker Community Initiative and support the development of a multi-use community building on Council owned lands adjacent to the N4 slip road and to the R120 and north of St. Thomas' Primary School.

8.6 Sports Facilities and Centres

The Council recognises the importance of sports facilities for health and wellbeing and is committed to ensuring that all communities have access to a range of such facilities to meet a diversity of needs. This is in line with the County's public health objectives and is in accordance with the *Healthy Ireland Framework* (HIF) and the *National Physical Activity Plan* (NPAP). The *Healthy Ireland Framework* (2019-2025) is based around four key goals – to increase the proportion of people who are healthy at all stages of life; to reduce health inequalities; to protect the public from threats to health and wellbeing; and to create an environment where every individual and sector of society can play their part in achieving a healthy Ireland. The *National Physical Activity Plan* which was prepared on foot of an action of the HIF, aims to increase physical activity levels across the whole population. It aims to create a society which facilitates people whether at home, at work or at play to lead an active way of life. Action 36 of the NPAP is to:

"Prioritise the planning and development of walking and cycling and general recreational / physical activity infrastructure".

At a fundamental level, the promotion within this Development Plan of the 'Connected Neighbourhood' concept (see Chapter 5: *Quality Design and Healthy Placemaking*), whereby all community facilities and services are located within a short distance of home, will create opportunities for more active lifestyles whereby short trips are made by walking and cycling. The Council will also seek to ensure that an appropriate range of sport and recreational facilities are provided considering the age profile, demographics and population growth targets identified in the Housing Strategy and Interim HNDA set out under Appendix 11.

Policy COS4: Sports Facilities and Centres

Ensure that all communities are supported by a range of sporting facilities that are fit for purpose, accessible and adaptable.

COS4 Objective 1:
To promote the provision and management of high-quality, multi-functional, sport and recreational infrastructure across the County, in consultation with relevant stakeholders, to meet existing and future needs, to include sports hubs and multi-sport astro-pitches, in accordance with the *South Dublin County Council Sports Pitch Strategy* (2020), the *National Sports Policy* (2018-2027) and the aims of the South Dublin County Sports Partnership, consistent with RPO 9.15 of the RSES.

COS4 Objective 2:
To promote public health policies including the *Healthy Ireland Framework and National Physical Activity Plan* consistent with NPO 26 of the NPF and RPO 9.16 of the RSES.

COS4 Objective 3:
To support the preparation of a Sports Plan for the County, where this provides for the sustainable development of sports facilities, in accordance with the *National Sports Policy* (2018-2027).

COS4 Objective 4:
To support and encourage the co-location and sharing of community and sporting facilities within the County where feasible. (See also COS8 Objective 8).

COS4 Objective 5:
To support the provision of formal and informal play areas with appropriate equipment and facilities, incorporating nature-based play opportunities across the County, ensuring that the needs of differing age groups and abilities are accommodated.

COS4 Objective 6:
To facilitate the provision of appropriately scaled children's play facilities and teen space facilities at suitable locations across the County within existing and new residential development.

COS4 Objective 7:
To support and promote communities and clubs in developing minority sports at appropriate locations within the County.

COS4 Objective 8:
To support the provision of permanent space for well-established sports and recreational activities at appropriate locations within the County, aspiring to the standards and conditions met for such playing areas by National Governing Bodies, where feasible and in accordance with proper planning and sustainable development.

COS4 Objective 9:
To support and facilitate a framework for the improvement, maintenance, and enhancement of existing community-based sports facilities within the County.

COS4 Objective 10:
To support and where possible identify a location for the development of a Motocross track and support any applications for national funding where available.

COS4 Objective 11:
To facilitate as far as possible all sports played by the citizens of South Dublin County including rugby, recognising the growing numbers taking part in the sport and the particular requirements of the game in terms of pitches.

COS4 Objective 12:
To support the provision of a dedicated sporting centre in Whitechurch Estate which could be used by local sports clubs including Whitechurch Boxing Club, Wanderers GAA Club, Ballyboden and other local clubs. Ideally it would comprise a boxing ring, changing and shower facilities and storage facilities for local clubs.

COS4 Objective 13:
To support the development of a Sports Hub in Griffeen Park, Lucan, that continues to serve the growing population of the surrounding area. Such hub should incorporate supporting the upgrade of the club house, all-weather playing pitches, multi-use pitches and teen play space facilities.

COS4 Objective 14:
To provide a sports and recreational amenity in Newcastle, incorporating a full-size GAA, multi-use, all-weather playing pitch, two basketball courts, tennis court, dressing rooms, a walking / jogging / cycling track as well as parking areas and related additional open space.

COS4 Objective 15:
To provide a swimming pool with leisure facilities in the Rathfarnham /Knocklyon / Firhouse / Ballycullen areas.

COS4 Objective 16:
To support the provision of athletics facilities in the County examining the potential for their location within Regional Parks and other locations in accordance with *SDCC's Sports Pitch Strategy* (2020) and the development of the County Sports Plan and the Parks and Open Space Strategy.

COS4 Objective 17:
To ensure that any sports club established for over 5 years in the community be provided with proper facilities (changing rooms / toilets) to ensure they can continue to operate and grow within our community.

COS4 Objective 18:
To make available suitable unused Council-owned brownfield sites and buildings to sport, arts and community groups on a temporary or long-term lease basis, where feasible.

COS4 Objective 19:
To ensure where possible and appropriate, that all public all-weather pitches provided by South Dublin County Council cater for all team sports and are large enough to cater for a full size GAA pitch.

COS4 SLO 1:
To continue to improve and develop Glenaulin Park in Palmerstown in tandem with the local community and other stakeholders, to enhance the park amenity including its sports and recreation facilities for park users of all ages including older people, children and teenagers and the local sports clubs and other stakeholders in accordance with the Council's *Sports Pitch Strategy* and the Parks and Open Space Strategy and Sports Plan.

COS4 SLO 2:
To promote actively the provision of indoor sports facilities to meet the needs of the growing population of Knocklyon-Ballyboden.

COS4 SLO 3:
To commit to providing a Sports Hub in the Kingswood Heights area.

COS4 SLO 4:
To support the provision of boxing training and tournaments for an established local club on Lucan Swimming Pool and Lucan Leisure Centre campus.

COS4 SLO 5:
To ensure that any future development has regard to the boundary with and protection of the amenity and function of Edmondstown Golf Course.

8.7 Parks and Public Open Space

This section deals with the function, hierarchy, quality and quantity of parks and public open space. Private and semi-private open space associated with new residential developments is addressed in Chapter 6: *Housing*, while Chapter 4: *Green Infrastructure* addresses open space as part of the wider Green Infrastructure network. Standards and criteria in relation to parks and open space provision are also set out in Chapter 12: *Implementation and Monitoring*.

Public open space is one of South Dublin County's most precious resources. It has a particular role in relation to the setting and function of the urban neighbourhoods of the County and is central to the delivery of sustainable communities and the promotion of biodiversity. It also allows for nature-based solutions for surface water management (SuDS) and the improvement of water quality and mitigation of climate change. Access to good quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation also make an essential contribution to the health and well-being of communities. These are key goals of the *Healthy Ireland Government Initiative* and the accompanying *National Physical Activity Plan* (NPAP). Action 34 of the NPAP seeks to:

"Ensure that the planning, development and design of towns and cities promotes the development of local and regional parks and recreational spaces that encourage physical activity".

This is reinforced by RPO 9.16 of the RSES which requires that Local Authorities support the objectives of public health policy with planning policies contained in Development Plans.

A number of strategies relevant to public open space, parks and recreation have been prepared by the Council including the *TeenSpace Programme* (2021), the *Sports Pitch Strategy* (2020) and the *Parks and Open Space Strategy* (2025). The Parks and Open Spaces Strategy was in preparation while the County Development Plan was being drafted and was subsequently subject to a separate public consultation process resulting in its presentation to members in 2025. The County Development Plan contains policies and objectives which align with and complement these documents.

The overarching aim of the Council in the provision of parks and open space is to encourage the development of a well-connected and integrated public open space network that contributes towards achieving a broad range of policy objectives, including:

- **Improving community, health and wellbeing** – Parks and open spaces provide a valuable role as a sanctuary for the community; the benefits of engaging with the natural world are now widely understood to be particularly beneficial to mental and physical health;
- **Enhancing visual amenity** – Parks and open spaces form an attractive green and open setting which enhances the character of urban neighbourhoods in particular;
- **Promoting sustainable development** – Parks and open spaces contribute to sustainable development objectives where they are appropriately located and accessible by walking, cycling and public transport;
- **Promoting climate change adaption and mitigation** – Parks and open spaces provide opportunities for sustainable drainage while trees and plants perform a vital role by capturing and storing carbon;
- **Reinforcing Green Infrastructure** – Parks and open spaces are core elements in the County's green infrastructure network (see Chapter 4: *Green Infrastructure*);
- **Promotion of biodiversity** – Parks and open spaces offer opportunities to conserve and restore biodiversity and ecosystems. They are often focused on natural environments such as river valleys which support valuable wildlife habitats; parks also offer opportunities to increase pollinator-friendly planting;
- **Supporting culture and heritage** – Parks and open spaces often contain heritage elements and play host to many outdoor community, arts and cultural events;
- **Supporting the local economy, including tourism** – Many parks and open spaces contain facilities such as cafes, heritage features and other attractions that are valuable visitor amenities.

8.7.1 Principles Guiding Public Open Space Provision

The Council's Parks and Open Space Strategy will provide the basis for the upgrade,

provision, management and maintenance of publicly managed parks and open spaces, complementing this section and the Green Infrastructure Strategy (see Chapter 4: *Green Infrastructure* and Appendix 4: *Green Infrastructure, Local Objectives and Case Studies*).

South Dublin County Council has five basic principles guiding open space provision:

Hierarchy

The Public Open Space Hierarchy outlined in Table 8.1 sets out the rationale for the existing and planned parks and open space network for the County, identifying the range of functions at each level in the hierarchy. The hierarchy of open space is a key element of the green infrastructure network, which connects and forms green corridor linkages across the County.

Environmental Sustainability

Public open space provision should contribute to the wider planning and Green Infrastructure vision for the County, including creating sustainable communities, promotion of biodiversity, sustainable water management, carbon sequestration and climate action objectives.

Quantity

Sufficient quantities of public open space and recreational facilities shall be provided to meet the needs of existing communities and any future population within the lifetime of this Development Plan.

Quality

Public open space should provide for active and passive recreation and should enhance the identity and amenity of an area having regard to the need to conserve biodiversity. It should be designed to be fit for purpose, with appropriate facilities and be easy to access, safe, and appropriately managed and maintained. Different types of open space within the hierarchy perform different functions and provide different levels of facilities.

Accessibility

Open space and recreational facilities should be designed and located to be publicly accessible by sustainable transport means such as walking, cycling and public transport, depending on the type of open space within the hierarchy. Facilities should be designed to ensure access for all ages and abilities.

Policy COS5: Parks and Public Open Space – Overarching

Provide a well-connected, inclusive and integrated public open space network through a multi-functional high-quality open space hierarchy that is accessible to all who live, work and visit the County.

COS5 Objective 1:
To support a hierarchy of multi-functional, accessible parks and public open spaces across the County in line with Table 8.1, based on existing populations and planned growth in accordance with the overall standard of 2.4ha per 1,000 population.

COS5 Objective 2:
To support the implementation of South Dublin County Parks and Open Space Strategy and to ensure that the provision, upgrade, design, and maintenance of public open space is in accordance with the Strategy.

COS5 Objective 3:
To support the implementation and expansion of the Council's *TeenSpace Programme* (2021) and the implementation of the *Sports Pitch Strategy* (2020) or any superseding documents.

8.7.2 Public Open Space Hierarchy

The public open space hierarchy outlined below reflects the main elements of the existing parks and open space network within the County and sets out a framework for future provision identifying the range of functions at each level in the hierarchy.

Public open space, for the purposes of this Development Plan, is open space which has purposefully been designed and laid out for the use of the public. This may include smaller open spaces in residential areas or larger spaces at local, neighbourhood or regional level within the open space hierarchy. It may also provide for different open space functions linked to location and size. Public open space is generally owned and maintained by the Council but in some instances, typically smaller spaces in residential areas, it may be managed or owned by a management company but accessible to the public.

Many of our open space areas are long established, as part of permissions for housing estates or through the acquisition of lands by the Council or others. New public open space is generally provided through the planning process by the identification of public open space in Local Area Plans or Strategic Development Zones and through the attachment of planning conditions for residential or other types of development.

The key characteristics and types of Public Open Space within the hierarchy for South Dublin County are set out in Table 8.1.


CYCLE TRACK
DOG RUN
CRICKET

Table 8.1: Public Open Space Hierarchy

Park Type	Features	Green Infrastructure
Regional Parks	These large public parks vary between 100 to 200ha in size, generally serving areas within a 5km radius, but also catering for users across the County and as a destination for tourists. Generally, they contain natural heritage, built heritage or cultural features and visitor facilities. Activities may include formal and informal children's play areas, walkways and cycleways, seating and passive recreation areas, playing pitches (including all-weather pitches), and changing rooms, running tracks and allotments. They should be easily accessed by public transport and cycling, with adequate provision of bicycle and car parking. The regional parks in South Dublin County are Griffeen Valley Park, Corkagh Park, Dodder Valley Park and Tymon Park. Typically, there should be a regional park located within 5km of all homes in the County.	Regional parks form a key element of the County level strategic green infrastructure (GI) network, contributing to important green corridors passing through urban areas and connecting to rural and upland areas. They often contain significant biodiversity and water management features such as water courses, SuDS, ponds, marshlands and meadows, wooded areas and hedgerows. There are considerable opportunities for strengthening the GI potential of these parks through further biodiversity enhancements.
Neighbourhood Parks	Neighbourhood Parks generally range in size from approximately 20 to 50ha (occasionally up to 100ha) in size. They are accessible by pedestrians and cyclists and can contain a wide variety of facilities and uses which may include playing pitches, and changing rooms relating to outdoor facilities and activities, play facilities, outdoor gyms, walking and cycling routes. Examples of Neighbourhood Parks in South Dublin County include Ballymount, Cookstown, Sean Walsh, Rathcoole, and Waterstown Parks. Neighbourhood parks serve a neighbourhood catchment within 800m.	Neighbourhood parks can incorporate a range of GI features, such as marshlands, meadow parklands, and community gardens, and informal biodiversity rich planting areas. There are considerable opportunities for strengthening the biodiversity value through sensitive enhancement schemes and by creating linkages via local level strategic corridors to the County-wide GI network.

Local Parks / Open Spaces	Local parks range in size from between 2 to 20ha. They provide mostly for amenity and passive recreation, although some may have playing pitches and play equipment; they are located in close proximity to homes and thereby easily accessible by pedestrians and cyclists. Examples of local parks in South Dublin County are Vessey and Hermitage Parks in Lucan, Ballycragh Park, Firhouse Community Centre Park and Quarryvale Park. Local Parks serve a local population within a 400m catchment.	These parks primarily consist of improved grassland but offer considerable opportunities for contributing to the local level GI network through enhancement schemes that include native trees, small woodlands, hedgerows, meadows and other planting.
Small Parks / Open Spaces	Small parks (between 0.2 and 2ha) provide important amenity and recreation facilities. They provide mostly for amenity and passive recreation and may incorporate small scale play facilities. Small parks serve an area within 300m catchment of the local neighbourhood population.	Currently GI features tend to be limited, as most areas comprise improved grassland with occasional hedgerows or trees. There are opportunities to strengthen the biodiversity value of these parks through native tree planting and pollinator-friendly planting and management.
Smaller Residential Open Spaces	These smaller open spaces are up to 0.2ha (2000 sq m) in size. They are usually provided as the smaller areas of public open space within a residential development but do not include grass verges, narrow strips of planting or incidental or 'left over' open space. They provide informal play / recreation activities usually for smaller children and have a visual and social function also. 'Amenity Green Spaces' as defined in the Parks and Open Space Strategy include smaller residential open spaces. All homes should be within 100m of this or another type of accessible open space. No contributions in lieu will be acceptable.	Smaller open spaces serve as stepping stones within the wider GI network.
Civic Spaces / Squares	These important spaces vary in size (mostly less than 0.2ha) and include civic areas and market squares and other hard surfaced and soft areas. They serve a neighbourhood function and are designed for pedestrian movement and social interaction in urban settings.	There are opportunities to strengthen the GI and biodiversity value of these spaces through SuDS features and native tree and pollinator-friendly planting.

8.7.3 Quantity of Public Parks and Public Open Space

South Dublin County has a wide variety of public open space distributed throughout the County. The aggregate area covered by these different types of public open space in the County is over 1500 hectares with the spaces varying greatly in size, function and landscape character. In addition to the larger parks, the residents of South Dublin County also have access to extensive areas of smaller residential open spaces which have a more informal amenity function, contribute to green corridors and enhance the overall visual amenity of an area.

The Sustainable Residential Development and Compact Settlements Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2024) provide guidance in relation to the provision of public open space and corridors within the plan area and recommend that *"The level of provision should take account of the needs of the planned population, protected zones, landscape character and statutory obligations to protect certain habitats and biodiversity. Ideally, all residents within a settlement will have access to a multi-functional public open space within walking distance of their home."* The Development Plan should include objectives relating to the provision of:

a) Regional, district and local level public parks and greenways.
b) Public open space provided as part of new development proposals.

In terms of development standards for housing, the Guidelines distinguish between "public open space in residential schemes" and "public parks". In this regard, the Development Plan standards and objectives aim to ensure that provision is made in new development proposals for a hierarchy of multifunctional public parks, public open spaces and corridors that are accessible and provide for the recreational needs of the planned population, while also creating space for nature and ecosystem services.

SDCC's overall standard for public open space, including public parks, is 2.4 hectares per 1,000 population. This will be applied to all developments with a residential element. Within that standard, there are specified percentages as set out in Table 8.2 which must, as a minimum, be provided on site. Only in exceptional defined circumstances, as set out in the objectives below, will flexibility be provided for.

Table 8.2: Minimum Public Parks and Public Open Space Standards

Land Use	Public Open Space Standards (minimum)
Overall Standard	2.4 Ha per 1,000 Population
New Residential Development on Lands Zone RES-N	Minimum 15% of net site area
New Residential Development on Lands in Other Zones including mixed use	Minimum 10% of net site area

'Sensitive Sites'	General minimum 20% of gross site area, but to be determined by the Council based on context and site-specific considerations

The *Sustainable Residential Development and Compact Settlements Guidelines* (2024) recognise that in the case of sites that contain significant heritage, landscape or recreational features and sites that have specific nature conservation requirements, a higher proportion of public open space may need to be retained. In such 'Sensitive Sites', the Council's minimum requirement of public parks and public open space applied to new developments in such areas will generally be a minimum of 20% of the gross site area; however, this shall be determined on a site-specific basis in the context of the quality and provision of existing or proposed open space in the wider area. This includes institutional lands and 'windfall' sites which are often characterised by a large private or institutional building set in substantial open lands and which in some cases may be accessible as an amenity to the wider community. Any proposals for higher density residential development must take into account the objective of retaining the "open character" of these lands, while at the same time ensuring that an efficient use is made of the land.

8.7.4 Delivery of Public Open Space and Contributions in Lieu

The Council's general intent is to ensure a minimum provision of public open space on site, within the relevant zoning, as set out under Table 8.2 Public Open Space Standards.

The Council may, in certain circumstances and at its sole discretion, allow for an element of open space to be located off-site where it exceeds the minimum on-site requirements. Alternatively, the Council may in certain circumstances and at its sole discretion, determine a financial contribution in lieu of all, or part of, the public open space requirement for a particular development. These circumstances may include (but are not limited to) situations where public open space requirements cannot be met on site in full or partially because:

- the provision of open space would be so small that it would not be viable due to the size, shape, configuration or context of the site;
- an element of off-site provision would better facilitate the proposed development and allow for the improvement of existing open space or improvements to the GI Network located in the vicinity of the site.

Any contributions in lieu of public open space will be calculated in accordance with the *South Dublin County Council Development Contribution Scheme* prepared under Section 48, of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended).

COS5 Objective 4:
To require the provision of public open space as part of a proposed development site area in accordance with the Public Open Space Standards (minimum) set out in Table 8.2.

The Council has the discretion for the remaining open space requirement to achieve the overall standard of 2.4 ha per 1,000 population, to allow for the provision or upgrading of small parks, local parks and neighbourhood parks outside the development site area, subject to the open space or facilities meeting the open space 'accessibility from homes' standards for each public open space type set out in Table 8.1.

In exceptional circumstances where the provision or upgrade of small parks, local parks and neighbourhood parks is not achievable, the Council has the discretion for the remaining open space requirement to allow provision or upgrade of Regional Parks, to achieve the overall standard of 2.4 ha per 1,000 population, subject to the Regional Park meeting the open space 'accessibility from homes' standard set out in Table 8.1.

COS5 Objective 5:
To require the provision of public open space as part of a proposed development site area in accordance with the Public Open Space Standards (minimum) set out in Table 8.2.

The Council has the discretion to accept a financial contribution in lieu of any remaining open space requirement to achieve the overall standard of 2.4 ha per 1,000 population, such contribution being held solely for the purpose of the acquisition or upgrading of small parks, local parks and neighbourhood parks subject to the open space or facilities meeting the open space 'accessibility from homes' standards for each public open space type specified in Table 8.1. In exceptional circumstances where the provision or upgrade of small parks, local parks and neighbourhood parks is not achievable, the Council has the discretion to accept a financial contribution in lieu of the remaining open space requirement to allow provision or upgrade of Regional Parks, subject to the Regional Park meeting the open space 'accessibility from homes' standard specified in Table 8.1.

Where the Council accepts financial contributions in lieu of open space, the total contribution shall be calculated on the basis of the costs set out in the applicable Development Contribution Scheme, in addition to the development costs of the open space.

COS5 Objective 6:
To require that public open space calculations be based on an occupancy rate of 3.5 persons in the case of dwellings with three or more bedrooms and 1.5 persons in the case of dwellings with two or fewer bedrooms.

COS5 Objective 7:
To require at the sole discretion of the Planning Authority a pro rata contribution in lieu of provision of public open space where, due to the small size, configuration or location of a particular development or on sites with less than three units it is not possible to provide functional public open space on site.

8.7.5 Quality of Public Open Space

The provision of high quality public open space that is appropriately designed, located and maintained is a key element of placemaking. Public open space should have active and passive recreational value and should enhance the identity and amenity of an area. The *Sustainable Residential Development and Compact Settlements Guidelines* (2024) recommend that the availability of accessible and high quality public open spaces within all settlements that are part of a wider GBI network will be important in creating sustainable settlements. Public open spaces should be designed to cater for a range of active and passive recreational needs (including play, physical activity, active travel, cultural uses and community gardens and allotments, as appropriate to the context) and to conserve and restore nature and biodiversity.

Access

All neighbourhood areas should have access to a range of formal and informal public open spaces for amenity, recreation, sports and play. Public open spaces should be designed and located to be publicly accessible by sustainable means such as walking, cycling and public transport depending on the type of open space and should be usable by all residents of the County. Adequate access points should be provided to open spaces to minimise distances to the areas they serve. Insofar as possible, open spaces should be linked to one another to increase their amenity value, encourage active travel between them and to facilitate the green infrastructure network. Continuous walls and other barriers between public open spaces should be avoided.

Recreation Facilities

Public open space should be designed to offer a variety of both active and passive recreation which is accessible to all, irrespective of age or ability. Incidental areas of open space will not be accepted as part of functional open space for the purposes of calculations. The Council is committed to continued improvement of quality and provision of recreation facilities through implementation of the Council's Parks and Open Spaces Strategy (2025), *TeenSpace Programme* (2021) and *Sports Pitch Strategy* (2020) (and any superseding strategies). In addition, under the *Play Space Programme* (2014-2020), the Council provided innovative play spaces based on natural play in parks and public open spaces throughout the County. The Council will continue to provide for play as part of future programmes and will also continue to require developers to provide for play as part of residential and mixed-use developments.

Green Infrastructure, Biodiversity and Sustainable Water Management

Parks and open spaces should be located to connect with each other so as to create green corridors and optimise their green infrastructure function. Existing trees, hedgerows and watercourses should be retained to maximise the natural setting of parks and open spaces. Planting should comprise native and pollinator-friendly species. Sustainable water management in the form of features such as integrated constructed wetlands, ponds, swales and basins should be incorporated within public open spaces and add to the amenity and biodiversity value of the spaces (appropriate to level within the public open space hierarchy).

Accessibility

Age friendly and disability friendly measures should be incorporated into the overall design and layout of public open spaces, such as the provision of appropriate information, suitable path surfaces and seating at appropriate intervals or other types of rest stops. Facilities, equipment and information materials should be accessible for all regardless of age or ability.

Safety

Public open space should feel safe to the user and have adequate supervision by way of passive surveillance (for example, windows overlooking the space; footpaths, cycleways and streets running through or beside the space). Smaller parks and open spaces should be visible from and accessible to the maximum number of residential units. Boundary treatment, public lighting and planting should be designed carefully to create a sense of security and to avoid opportunities for anti-social behaviour. Access points to parks should be maximised to increase use and thereby improve safety. Inhospitable and inaccessible open space comprising narrow tracts, backlands, incidental or 'left-over' strips of land should be designed out of all schemes.

COS5 Objective 8:

To ensure the design of parks and public open space areas is of high quality; to provide a pleasant setting, accommodate use by people of all ages and abilities, to support life-long activity and good health and well-being by the provision of a balanced mix of active and passive recreation and access to, or view of, nature, ensuring that the design considers:

- → provision of an appropriate mix of hard and soft surfaced areas;
- → enhancement of biodiversity and existing trees and hedgerows;
- → incorporation of water courses, other natural features and existing built heritage into the design of parks and open spaces as appropriate;
- → provision of new planting, landscape features and appropriate site furniture including a variety of accessible, well located and designed seating.

COS5 Objective 9:

To ensure that parks and public open space are appropriately located within the County and within development sites, to facilitate and support its multi-functional role.



COS5 Objective 10:
To support and facilitate the key role of parks and open spaces in relation to green infrastructure including sustainable drainage systems (SuDS), flood management, biodiversity and carbon absorption and to promote connections between public open spaces and the wider GI network.

COS5 Objective 11:
To promote the role of parks and open spaces in conserving and restoring biodiversity and ecosystems in accordance with the objectives of the *National Biodiversity Action Plan* (2017-2021) and the *All-Ireland Pollinator Plan* (2021-2025), the Council's *Biodiversity Action Plan (*2020-2026) or any superseding plans. In the development of individual management plans for parks the requirements of the aforementioned biodiversity and pollinator plans will be taken into consideration and will form a part of the management requirements for the park. The development of individual management plans for parks will include consultation with local stakeholders.

COS5 Objective 12:
To ensure that proposed SuDS measures are only accepted as an element of public open space where they are natural in form and integrate well into the open space landscape supporting a wider amenity and biodiversity value.

COS5 Objective 13:
To ensure that parks and open spaces provide for a wide range of recreational and amenity activities that are easily accessible to all in the community, irrespective of age or ability.

COS5 Objective 14:
To ensure that public open space and associated recreational facilities are accessible by walking, cycling and public transport, as appropriate to their position within the open space hierarchy set out in Table 8.1 and include safe bicycle parking spaces at appropriate locations.

COS5 Objective 15:
To support the development of passive recreation within open spaces, such as walking trails, seating provision and areas which provide for passive amenity / hobbies, and visual interest.

COS5 Objective 16:
To ensure that parks and public open spaces are carefully designed as safe spaces, by implementing the following measures:

- → Providing active frontages and maximising passive surveillance from adjacent housing and / or public thoroughfares;
- → Eliminating buildings which back-on or gable-front public open spaces;
- → Designing corner units with active frontage;
- → Encouraging increased use through improved access and quality of facilities';
- → Careful location, design and choice of surface materials and site furniture.

COS5 Objective 17:
To ensure that incidental areas of open space which do not function as useable open space and / or are not clearly visible from the public realm, are designed out of a proposed scheme.

COS5 Objective 18:
To ensure that incidental areas of open space and areas immediately underneath high voltage electricity lines are not included in open space calculations.

8.7.6 Play Facilities

Children should have access to safe and secure outdoor play opportunities that are accessible from their homes. Children's play areas include traditional playgrounds with formal play equipment and natural play spaces with natural features that promote informal play. In this regard, the Council's innovative *Play Space Programme* (2014-2020) has delivered natural play spaces in parks and open spaces at locations close to residential areas throughout the County.

The Council will require children's play areas to be provided as an integral part of the design and delivery of new residential and mixed-use developments, addressed as part of a landscape plan, according to the minimum requirements set out in Chapter 12: *Implementation and Monitoring*.

COS5 Objective 19:
To support the provision within new residential developments and parks and public open spaces, of formal and informal play areas with appropriate equipment and facilities, incorporating nature-based play opportunities where appropriate, ensuring that the needs of differing age groups including young children, older children and teenagers are catered for and that different abilities and needs are accommodated to be able to access and participate in play, and to ensure playspaces and play facilities comply with universal design principles.

COS5 Objective 20:
To ensure that children's play areas are provided as an integral part of the design and delivery of new residential and mixed-use developments and addressed as part of a landscape plan in accordance with the requirements set out in Chapter 12: *Implementation and Monitoring*.

COS5 Objective 21:
To review the Council's play policy within the lifetime of the Development Plan.

COS5 Objective 22:
To maximise the leisure and amenity resource offered by each of the County's parks through the promotion of management plans that provide for the continued improvement of the park setting, recreational facilities and biodiversity.

COS5 Objective 23:
To retain the open character of the existing open space area on Esker Hill (between Brookvale and Esker Lawns).

COS5 Objective 24:
That the Council continues to progress the delivery of toilet facilities in parks in tandem with the delivery of built infrastructure in parks and open spaces (similar to the model proposed for Tymon Park Intergenerational Facility and Airlie Park) and in accordance with the outcome of any feasibility study undertaken in relation to provision of public toilets.

COS5 Objective 25:
To continue to provide innovative play spaces, including sensory play areas and play trails, in parks and open spaces throughout the County and to identify the quietest and busiest times at SDCC playgrounds and share this information so it may be useful to visitors so they can identify quiet times and quieter playgrounds and plan their visits accordingly.

COS5 Objective 26:
To support and facilitate the provision of a memorial park of remembrance for all survivors of the Mother and Baby and County Institutions.

COS5 Objective 27:
To facilitate the provision of an apiary colony within Lucan, Adamstown subject to appropriate location and design and regard to public amenity.

COS5 Objective 28:
To deliver better accessibility for wheelchair users in parks, across all features (pathways, furniture, sensory and recreational amenities, and so on), including a check of compliance with universal design principles as part of the design process.

COS5 SLO 1:
To identify and set aside land, ensuring the delivery of the quantum of open space within the general area of the Burgage South Neighbourhood Park as identified in the *Newcastle Local Area Plan* (2012), and to pursue all means of achieving this including proactive engagement with stakeholders and through the consideration of planning applications affecting this area.

COS5 SLO 2:
To require the provision of public open space and to ensure that the location, layout and design of the public open space facilitates the delivery of a sports pitch to facilitate multiuse within the Boherboy lands in the south part of the Fortunestown LAP lands, alongside the residential development that is permitted on these lands.

COS5 SLO 3:
That the area on both sides of Whitestown Stream / Jobstown Stream inclusive of the Stream itself between Cloonmore Estate on one side and Bawnlea and Dromcarra Estates on the other and from the Jobstown Rd to the N81 be designated a Local Park / Open Space and prioritise over the life-time of the plan upgrading the regreening of the area and the protection of the watercourse running through it, including the inclusion of intergenerational uses of the space such as outdoor exercise equipment. The regreening of the area to be in accordance with the implementation of South Dublin County Parks and Open Space Strategy.

COS5 SLO 4:
To provide Newcastle Village with community areas and space to hold community events, a Village plaza.

8.8 Healthcare Facilities

Healthcare provision encompasses a range of services from small scale GP surgeries to primary care centres and hospitals. Central to the vision of Sláintecare (the Government programme to transform health and social care services) is a move towards providing as much care as possible as close to home as possible, so that people should only have to go to hospital when absolutely necessary.

The Department of Health's *Progress Report on Primary Care Centres* (2019) states that *'access to a range of quality health services, in line with Sláintecare and relative to the scale of a region, city, town, neighbourhood or community is a defining characteristic of attractive, successful and competitive places'*. The Irish healthcare system is focussed on hospital provision and is not suited to the changing demographic profile and health needs of the country, in which people are living longer but there is a greater prevalence of chronic conditions. Primary Care Centres (PCC) aim to deliver integrated care by providing a single point of access for the individual, and by facilitating closer coordination and cooperation between health professionals from across different disciplines.

The Primary Care Centre Team typically consists of general practice, public health nursing, occupational therapy, physiotherapy and speech and language therapy, supporting populations of around 7,000-10,000 people. The provision of PCCs by the Health Service Executive (HSE) is informed by their needs analysis and priority for development is given to areas of urban and rural deprivation. The HSE *Integrated Care Programme for Older People* has similar goals specifically for older people and seeks to move away from hospital stays towards continuous and long-term care as close to home as possible. The Sláintecare Integration Fund is supporting projects that help older people to access more care in their community, either through their GP, their Local Health Centre, Primary Care Centre, or from other health and social care, and community and voluntary services. *Sláintecare* projects focus on caring for the person and joining up services between hospitals and in the community, so that people can stay healthy in their communities for as long as possible.

Tallaght University Hospital is a major national hospital within Tallaght town centre. It is a teaching hospital partnered academically with Trinity College Dublin. The hospital has undergone significant expansion since 2016 and is one of the satellite centres for the National Children's Hospital.

Proposals relating to healthcare facilities will be assessed on their own merits but should reflect the County's settlement hierarchy regarding location and scale. Ultimately the provision of health care services in South Dublin County is the responsibility of the HSE.

Policy COS6: Healthcare Facilities
Support the Health Service Executive (HSE) in their aim to provide access to a range of quality health services, in line with *Sláintecare* and relative to the scale of each settlement and community, and facilitate other statutory and voluntary agencies, and the private sector in the provision of healthcare facilities and services, including the system of hospital care and the provision of community based primary care facilities appropriate to the size and scale of each settlement.
COS6 Objective 1: To facilitate the development of community-based care including primary health care centres, hospitals, clinics, and facilities to cater for the specific needs of an ageing population in appropriate urban areas in accordance with the Development Plan core and settlement strategy, consistent with RPO 9.23 of the RSES.
COS6 Objective 2: To promote healthcare facilities of an appropriate scale to be provided in new communities on a phased basis in tandem with the delivery of housing, in accordance with the phasing requirements of Local Area Plans and approved Planning Schemes and in locations that are accessible by public transport, walking and cycling.
COS6 Objective 3: To support the provision of appropriately scaled healthcare facilities within existing settlements, in locations that are accessible by public transport and safe walking and cycling infrastructure.
COS6 Objective 4: To support the provision of primary care facilities with relevant agencies, in accordance with the standard of one facility per 7,000-10,000 population as identified by the Department of Health.
COS6 Objective 5: To liaise with the Health Service Executive and all relevant bodies to support, promote and attract potential GP, Dental, Pharmacy and all other necessary medical services, to locate within the Adamstown and Clonburris SDZs, in order to urgently meet basic growing healthcare demands of the community.

COS6 SLO 1:
To engage with stakeholders and to investigate the possibility of providing senior accommodation on the Rathcoole Health Centre site (protected structure RPS 316), ensuring that any future development is appropriate, having full regard to the setting and integrity of the protected structure, the location of the site within the Rathcoole Architectural Conservation Area, and the amenities of adjoining housing and other land-uses.

8.9 Early Childhood Care and Education Facilities

South Dublin County Council supports the sustainable development of good quality and accessible childcare and early education infrastructure in the County. Childcare facilities are taken to encompass full-day care, sessional facilities and after school services.

The Childcare Facility Guidelines for Planning Authorities, DEHLG (2001), advocate a pro-active role by the Planning Authority in the promotion of increased childcare provision. Likewise, Circular Letter PL 3 / 2016 (Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government, 2016) advises Planning Authorities to expedite planning applications for childcare facilities to facilitate the expansion of the childcare sector in response to the extension of the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Scheme in 2016. In the interest of fostering sustainable communities, the Childcare Facility Guidelines promote the provision of childcare facilities at suitable locations including residential areas, centres of employment, educational establishments, within town, village, district and local centres, and in areas convenient to public transport.

Pre-school childcare needs are difficult to assess on a long-term basis as the nature of demand evolves over time based on factors such as the population profile of an area, market conditions, government policy and the level of state intervention. Notwithstanding this, there is a recognised need for planned provision in new communities where no infrastructure exists. South Dublin County Council will seek to facilitate the provision of good quality and accessible childcare infrastructure at appropriate locations by combining area-based requirements in new communities with market-led provision in more established areas. Small-scale childcare and early education will be facilitated within residential areas where it is possible to protect residential amenity from potential impacts including noise, traffic and parking issues.

Policy COS7: Childcare Facilities

Support and facilitate the provision of good quality and accessible childcare facilities at suitable locations within the County in consultation with the County Childcare Committee.

COS7 Objective 1:
To support and facilitate the provision of childcare facilities on well located sites within or close to existing built-up areas, including adjacent to school sites, and within employment areas where the environment is appropriate, making provision to encourage sustainable transport, consistent with NPO 31 of the NPF.

COS7 Objective 2:
To require provision of appropriate childcare facilities as an essential part of new residential developments in accordance with the provisions of the *Childcare Facilities Guidelines for Planning Authorities* (2001) or any superseding guidelines, or as required by the Planning Authority. The Guidelines recommend one childcare facility with a minimum of 20 places for each 75 units for new residential developments, with any variation to this standard being justified having regard to factors such as type of residential units, emerging demographic profile and availability of existing childcare services in the vicinity.

COS7 Objective 3:
To require childcare facilities to be provided in new communities in tandem with the delivery of residential development and, where a Local Area Plan or Planning Scheme applies, in accordance with the phasing requirements of that plan / scheme.

COS7 Objective 4:
To support investment in the sustainable development of the County's childcare services as an integral part of social infrastructure provision, including support of the Affordable Childcare Scheme; ensuring quality and supply of sufficient childcare places; and support of initiatives under a cross-Government Early Years Strategy, consistent with RPO 9.20 of the RSES.

COS7 Objective 5:
To support the provision of small-scale childcare facilities in residential areas subject to appropriate safeguards to protect the amenities of the area, having regard to noise pollution and traffic and parking management.

COS7 Objective 6:
To support the provision of childcare facilities within or co-located with community buildings, such as community centres and schools.



8.10 Primary and Post-Primary Schools

Education facilities have a central role to play in developing sustainable and balanced communities. Responsibility for delivery of education facilities and services lies with the Department of Education (DoE). The Council has worked closely with the DoE since 2012 under a nationally agreed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), to proactively identify and acquire sites for new primary and post-primary schools and to support the Department's Schools Building Programme. The current Schools Building Programme provides for significant investment in school buildings under Project Ireland 2040 and will continue to deliver schools in the County.

During the period 2016-2020, the following schools have been constructed:

Table 8.3: Primary and Post-Primary Schools constructed 2016-2021

School Name	School Type	Location	Neighbourhood Area
Lucan Community National School	Primary	Griffeen, Lucan	Lucan / Adamstown, Palmerstown
Stewarts Hospital Special School	Primary	Balgaddy, Lucan	Lucan / Adamstown, Palmerstown
Citywest Educate Together National School	Primary	Fortunestown Lane	Citywest / Rathcoole / Saggart / Newcastle
Citywest & Saggart Community National School	Primary	Fortunestown Lane	Citywest / Rathcoole / Saggart / Newcastle
Scoil Aoife, Citywest	Primary	Citywest	Citywest / Rathcoole / Saggart / Newcastle
Scoil Chaitlin Maude	Primary	Kiltalown	Tallaght
Kingswood Community College	Post-Primary	Kingswood	Tallaght
Firhouse Educate Together National School	Primary	Firhouse	Templeogue / Walkinstown / Rathfarnham / Firhouse
Gaelscoil na Gluise	Primary	Firhouse	Templeogue / Walkinstown / Rathfarnham / Firhouse

In addition to the nine new schools constructed, planning permission has been granted for a further seven new schools and for extensions to thirteen existing schools.

The Department of Education identifies the need for new schools through a nationwide demographic review, using a Geographical Information System (with data from the CSO, OSI and Department of Social Protection in addition to the DoE's own databases). Locations where pressure for additional primary and post-primary school places will arise are identified and this need is catered for either by new schools or the expansion of existing schools. Demographic changes in South Dublin County will continue to be monitored by the Department of Education on an ongoing basis. In addition, the Council has engaged extensively with the Department, as part of the preparation of this Plan, to identify school need in each neighbourhood area based on the population growth identified in the core strategy. This engagement involved the review of school reservations on the 2016 Development Plan maps and within LAPs to ascertain whether they should be retained as part of this Plan and an assessment, based on the core strategy, of whether new schools would be required. This is reflected in the objectives contained within the Development Plan maps and are also identified in Appendix 12: *Our Neighbourhoods*.

Demand for school provision will continue to inform the preparation of any LAPs, SDZ Planning Schemes and framework / masterplans.

8.10.1 Urban Schools

In built up areas, where land is scarce, it is not always possible to achieve large sites for school buildings. In these situations, some elements required for a school may be provided off-site (for example, sports facilities, amenity space, parking, etc.) and whilst this may be acceptable on a site-by-site basis, such proposals will need to clearly demonstrate how and where these off-site requirements will be delivered. A smaller site may require a multi-storey school building (that is, above two storeys) and it may be possible, subject to high quality siting and design, to reduce separation distances due to the nature of surrounding uses and development. It may also be appropriate to reduce standards such as parking and set-down facilities in built-up areas where there is good access to public transport, where residential development is at higher densities and where there are good walking and cycling facilities.

8.10.2 Travel to School

Travel mode share data for the County indicates that the private car is used for too many short trips to schools. There is considerable scope for a shift to walking and cycling as most students will live within a relatively short distance of school. Such a change will be accompanied by many positive benefits including a more active and healthy population, reduced traffic congestion and particulate pollution, increased road safety, and a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions with a consequent positive impact for climate change. The Council will implement measures to encourage these changes.

These will include ensuring that new schools are located, insofar as is possible, to promote walking and cycling and access to public transport. Priority will be given to walking and cycling to school by providing infrastructure including safe cycle ways, footpaths and improved permeability schemes through the *Cycle South Dublin* programme and other such initiatives. At design stage, the Council will seek to ensure that permeability and connectivity with the surrounding area is incorporated within school sites through provision of adequate access points, particularly for pedestrians and cyclists and the provision of adequate secure bicycle storage in all schools. The Council will also continue to work with existing and new schools to increase the proportion of students walking and cycling through the promotion of initiatives such as the ‘Green Schools’ and ‘School Streets’ projects.

Policy COS8: Primary and Post Primary Schools

Policy COS8(a):
Work in conjunction with the Department of Education to promote and support the provision of primary and post-primary schools in the County to reflect the diverse educational needs of communities.

Policy COS8(b):
Engage with the Department of Education and support the Department's School Building Programme by actively identifying sites for primary and post primary schools at suitable locations, based on forecast need.

Policy COS8(c):
To review school site provision in the Development Plan, following the publication of full Census 2022 results, cross referencing with class size allocations being used during the period in question, engaging with the Department of Education, the elected members and through submissions by education stakeholders and the general public, so as to ensure accurate and adequate school provision requirements are identified and provided for primary and post primary schools at suitable locations.

COS8 Objective 1:
To reserve and identify early on sites for primary and post-primary provision in developing areas though the Development Plan, Local Area Plans, Planning Schemes and masterplans, in consultation with the Department of Education, to have regard to the 2008 Code of Practice on the Provision of Schools and the Planning System (or any superseding Code of Practice) and to ensure that designated sites are of sufficient size and are accessible cycle and pedestrian friendly locations, consistent with NPO 31 of the NPF and RPO 9.21 of the RSES.

COS8 Objective 2:
To facilitate the development of new schools, ensuring that new school sites are retained for educational use, and the re-development of existing schools and extensions planned as part of the Government's School Building Programme.

COS8 Objective 3:
To require schools to be provided in new communities on a phased basis in tandem with the delivery of residential development, unless the Department of Education requests otherwise and provides evidence to the Council and the elected members that existing schools can cater for requirements through extensions if necessary. Assuming a new school is required, to ensure that its delivery is planned in tandem with the delivery of the residential development, in accordance with the phasing requirements of Local Area Plans and Planning Schemes or as may be otherwise required.

COS8 Objective 4:
To support and facilitate the extension of existing school facilities, based on identified needs, subject to appropriate safeguards in relation to safe travel to school, traffic management and the amenities of the area.

COS8 Objective 5:
To promote an urban school model within built-up areas of the County, where access to off-site facilities including for sport, recreation and amenity space can be clearly demonstrated.

COS8 Objective 6:
To ensure new schools are designed and located to promote walking and cycling and access to public transport, by implementing the following measures:

- → Ensuring school sites are in locations that are central and accessible to the communities they serve;
- → Providing infrastructure including safe cycle ways and footpaths;
- → Requiring a mobility management plan for all new schools that prioritises active travel modes and public transport;
- → Incorporating measures to promote walking and cycling at design stage including permeability and connectivity with the surrounding area through provision of adequate access points for pedestrians and cyclists;
- → Ensuring the provision of adequate secure bicycle storage;
- → Working with existing and new schools to increase the proportion of students walking and cycling through the promotion of initiatives such as the 'Green Schools' and 'School Streets' projects. (Refer to Chapter 7: *Sustainable Movement*);
- → Introducing measures that would support increased bus services to enable more students to travel to school through public transport.

COS8 Objective 7:
To facilitate provision of parking for staff and parents and 'drop-off' areas for new schools, only as part of a mobility management plan, where a need has been demonstrated and where active travel modes (walking and cycling) and public transport have been prioritised having regard to the protection of nearby residential amenity.

COS8 Objective 8:
To promote and support schemes that facilitate the shared use of school facilities, particularly at planning stage, such as sports halls, ball courts and all-weather pitches for community use outside of school hours and to support the co-location of pre and after-school childcare facilities on new primary school developments and to promote this using the Council's land management and ownership policy. (See also COS4 Objective 4).

COS8 Objective 9:
To support the provision of adequate indoor and outdoor school sports facilities for all new and existing schools in the County, based on identified need and in line with the population of the school.

COS8 Objective 10:
To promote and support the use of public sports facilities by urban schools, during school hours, where feasible, while not diminishing the need for other facilities within the school grounds that could be shared with the community outside school hours as per COS8 Objective 8.

COS8 Objective 11:
To promote and support educational campus development, where feasible.

COS8 Objective 12:
To explore with the Department of Education the potential to develop a GIS mapping layer of all school sites in the County.

COS8 SLO 1:
To identify a site for the appropriate location of a new post primary school within the Neighbourhood Area of Citywest / Saggart / Rathcoole / Newcastle to provide for the needs identified for the catchment area by the Department of Education.

8.11 Higher Level Education and Further Education Facilities

The Council recognises the importance of the role of higher and further education in providing for the economic and social wellbeing of the County's population.

The Tallaght campus of Technological University Dublin (TU Dublin) provides higher level education in the County. TU Dublin is a leader in STEM disciplines and provides a range of other learning experiences including in business, media, culinary arts and digital arts. TU Dublin supports lifelong learning and is the largest provider of part-time education and apprentice education in Ireland. It also fosters award-winning technology transfer and business incubation activity and has developed strong international partnerships providing opportunities for student and staff exchange programmes, major cross collaboration research projects, and employment opportunities (see also Chapter 9: *Economic Development and Employment*).

The TU Dublin strategic plan focuses on the three pillars of People, Planet and Partnership, underpinned by the key UN Sustainable Development Goal of 'Quality Education'. There are also opportunities for TU Dublin to develop strategic links with services and industries in the County including the planned Tallaght Innovation Centre and to become a major higher-level education hub.

Many further / adult education centres are located throughout the County including Solas, National Learning Network and Youthreach, which together offer a wide range of courses and qualifications.

Policy COS9: Higher Level Education and Further Education Facilities
Support the development and ongoing provision of higher-level education and further education in the County, and develop Tallaght as a hub for education, cross collaboration and employment to provide further opportunities for the County's workforce.
COS9 Objective 1: To support the role of Higher Education Institutions and Educational Training Boards in addressing skills shortages and lifelong learning needs in the County, consistent with NPO 31 of the NPF and RPO 9.22 of the RSES.
COS9 Objective 2: To facilitate and encourage cross-collaboration between business and employment clusters and TU Dublin to drive research and innovation and increase employment opportunities in the County.
COS9 Objective 3: To support and facilitate the development of existing higher-level and further education facilities and to provide for new facilities, including outreach services to develop competencies in innovation.
COS9 Objective 4: To promote and facilitate the development of Tallaght as a centre for learning, education and employment.
COS9 Objective 5: To promote the clustering of education related services and facilities proximate to existing higher-level education facilities.
COS9 Objective 6: To facilitate increased permeability between TU Dublin Tallaght Campus and the surrounding employment, residential and mixed-use areas.
COS9 Objective 7: To promote the provision of youth services that support and target disadvantaged young people and improve their employability, consistent with RPO 9.20 of the RSES, and the provision of informal education and training opportunities within the County, consistent with the LECP.
COS9 Objective 8: To investigate with the relevant educational providers, the need for a new university campus within the City Edge area and to support, promote and facilitate a South Dublin County University Campus within the City Edge Strategic Framework Plan or any superseding plan should such a need be identified.

8.12 Libraries

Libraries enrich the quality of life in the County by promoting access to a broad range of knowledge, information, technology, culture, and heritage. *Open to You South*

Dublin Library Development Plan (2018-2022) underpins the council's core themes of social inclusion, collaboration, well-being, and citizen engagement and its role as a significant contributor to economic growth and development.

There are currently six branch libraries within South Dublin County. These are located in Tallaght (the County Library), Ballyroan, Lucan, Clondalkin and North Clondalkin (NCL) and Castletymon, along with part-time libraries at Palmerstown Library Digital Hub and at Stewart's Care facility.

Policy COS10: Libraries
Provide an innovative, community focused public library service to all who live, work and study in South Dublin County.
COS10 Objective 1: To support the development of the County's library services and the implementation of key objectives, as set out in *Open to You - South Dublin Library Development Plan* (2018-2022) or any superseding document.
COS10 Objective 2: To support the delivery of a new library service in the Rathcoole environs, to meet the needs of the expanding population.
COS10 Objective 3: To support the delivery of a new library service in Adamstown in accordance with the phasing strategy set out in the SDZ Planning Scheme.
COS10 Objective 4: To support the delivery of a new library service in the Citywest area to meet the needs of the expanding population subject to any review of the Library Strategy.
COS10 Objective 5: To provide for a public library to serve the growing Ballycullen, Knocklyon and Firhouse communities and indoor civic space to meet the inter-generational requirements of local communities including performance and exhibition space, indoor sports and artistic, cultural and recreational use.

8.13 Arts and Cultural Facilities

The existing arts and cultural infrastructure in South Dublin County include theatres, music venues, performance spaces, museums and outdoor event spaces. Tallaght as the County Town plays an important role as a centre for arts and culture and is the location for the Civic theatre and Rua Red arts centre.

The Civic theatre has two performance spaces, a café, and two foyer spaces often used as art galleries. In addition to theatre, the venue has a varied programme offering music, dance, opera and comedy. Rua Red is a contemporary art space

housing gallery, a theatre / cinema, a dance studio, a conference room, recording facilities, a music rooms, artist's studios, and a café.

There are also several museums in the County including the Clondalkin Round Tower Interactive Visitor Centre, Pearse Museum, Rathfarnham Castle and the Irish Air Corps Museum, Baldonnell.

The Council supports development of the arts at a local level and strives to provide opportunities for all who live in, work in and visit the County to engage with the arts at different levels.



The *South Dublin County Arts Development Strategy* (2022-2026) provides for the development of an arts service that is inclusive, accessible and sustainable for the County's communities. The *South Dublin County Cultural and Creativity Strategy* (2018-2022) is a collaboration across the arts, heritage and creative industries to enhance community participation and provide support for artists and creatives. New initiatives will be developed and introduced to strengthen the existing programmes and to bolster the pivotal role of the arts and culture infrastructure within the County.

Public art enriches the character of the built environment and public realm in a creative and innovative way. It also contributes to the distinctiveness of an area and promotes a sense of identity that can help with the integration of diverse communities in both existing and new neighbourhoods. The Council will encourage and support proposals for the creation and installation of public art in suitable and accessible public places. Large developments will be required to provide a piece of public art or sculpture or architectural feature designed in consultation with the Council.

The Council will support the 'Per Cent for Art' scheme, a long-standing government initiative whereby 1% of the cost of any publicly funded capital, infrastructural and building development can be allocated to the commissioning of a work of art.

Policy COS11: Arts and Cultural Facilities
Facilitate and support the continued development of arts and culture within the County.
COS11 Objective 1: To seek to work with all relevant stakeholders to promote equality of access to and engagement with arts and cultural services and in the promotion of culture and heritage led urban and rural regeneration, consistent with RPO 9.25 of the RSES.
COS11 Objective 2: To support the government 'Per Cent for Art' scheme for publicly funded capital, infrastructural and building developments.
COS11 Objective 3: To require new commercial developments greater than 5,000 sq m in size, in the case of non-residential development, and in excess of 500 units in the case of residential development, to incorporate a physical artistic feature into the scheme to improve the built environment / public realm, which could include high quality features within the environment / landscaping, in agreement with the Council, and to invite local artists to participate where appropriate by way of open competition.
COS11 Objective 4: To facilitate the continued development of arts and cultural facilities throughout the County and to support the objectives and implementation of the *South Dublin County Arts Strategy* (2022-2026) and the *South Dublin County Cultural and Creativity Strategy* (2018-2022) and any superseding plans and strategies.
COS11 Objective 5: To ensure that arts and cultural facilities are accessible to all members of the community.
COS11 Objective 6: To pursue the development of a Heritage Centre in Tallaght Village within the lifetime of the County Development Plan.
COS11 Objective 7: To support the arts and culture by facilitating community groups to use vacant or unused council premises for exhibitions, performances and other uses related to community arts, where suitable.
COS11 Objective 8: To prepare a feasibility study for the development of Arts and Culture Infrastructure within the County, taking into account areas without any such infrastructure, and transport links.

COS11 Objective 9:
To pursue the development of a Heritage Centre in Lucan Village area.

8.14 Places of Worship

South Dublin County Council recognises the importance of places of worship and multi-faith centres in meeting the diverse religious and cultural needs of the County's population. Given the potential noise and traffic impacts associated with the use of a building as a place of public worship or religious instruction, it is important that places of worship and associated uses are located in such a manner as not to negatively affect residential or other amenity.

Policy COS12: Places of Worship

Support and facilitate the development of places of worship and multi-faith facilities at suitable locations within the County.

COS12 Objective 1:
To support and facilitate the development of places of worship and multi-faith facilities at appropriate locations, such as town, village, district and local centres or other suitable locations where they do not adversely impact on existing amenities.

8.15 Burial Grounds

Local Authorities are responsible for ensuring that there are adequate burial facilities, including the acquisition of lands for such facilities where necessary. Cemeteries and crematoria can also be provided by the private sector. Due to the increased number of faith communities in the County, the burial needs of multi-faith and non-religious communities should also be taken into account with regard to such facilities.

In the last five years, Newcastle Cemetery has been extended and a private cemetery is currently being developed close to Esker Cemetery in Lucan. Bohernabreena Cemetery will be extended during the period of the Development Plan.

Policy COS13: Burial Grounds

Facilitate the sustainable development of cemeteries and crematoria to cater for the needs of the County.

COS13 Objective 1:
To facilitate the development of new or extended burial grounds, including green cemeteries, eco-burial grounds, and crematoria, having consideration for the burial preferences of multi-faith and non-religious communities, at suitable locations in the County, subject to appropriate safeguards with regard to environmental considerations, noise and traffic impacts.

8.16 Fire Stations

The Council will continue to co-operate with Dublin City Council in the development and upgrading of the fire service within the Dublin Region. A new Fire Station in the Clonburris SDZ lands will be provided to meet the needs of the growing population.

Policy COS14: Fire Stations
Co-operate with Dublin City Council in the development and upgrading of the fire service within the Dublin Region.
COS14 Objective 1: To support and facilitate the development of an efficient fire service in the Dublin Region, in co-operation with Dublin City Council and to reserve sites for the provision of a fire station where a need is identified by the Dublin Fire Brigade.
COS14 Objective 2: To provide a new fire station on lands identified in Clonburris SDZ.

8.17 Climate Action Audit

Climate Action Audit

Source of Green House Gases (GHGs)	Measures to Address Climate Impacts
The source of GHGs from **Community Infrastructure and Open Space** principally arises from: → Heating and cooling of community buildings using fossil fuels; → Car journeys to and from community buildings and public open space using fossil fuels.	The Development Plan contains policies and objectives which promote measures that have the potential to reduce the climate impact of providing for **Community Infrastructure and Open Space**, as follows: → The provision of parks, open space and community infrastructure within walkable distances of communities and on public transport routes; → The promotion of walking and cycling and use of public transport through permeability and mobility management measures; → The co-location and sharing of community facilities to increase efficient use and reduce trips; → Sourcing power from renewables such as wind and solar energy; → Use of alternative energy technologies such as heat pumps; → Roll-out of district heating projects; → Location, siting and design to promote climate mitigation and adaptation for example, taking advantage of solar gain; → Additional planting of trees and pollinator species and adapting management regimes in parks and public open spaces to allow more wild areas resulting in increased carbon sequestration.

