



## **About the Chief Executive's Report**

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

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

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#### Next steps of the County **Development Plan**

ubmissions to the Draft South Dublin Development Plan closed on 15 September 2021. A total of 302 submissions were received resulting in over 800 separate issues. The Chief Executive's (CE) Report assessed all submissions on the issues raised and responded with recommendations.

The CE Report was then submitted to the members on 7 December. The report is now in a twelve-week period for consideration which will include Special Development Plan meetings to take place over the period starting on 23 February and finishing on 9 March. Motions from elected members will be taken up to 24 January 2022.

A first briefing was held on 9 December 2021 which outlined the current and next stage of the process, an understanding of the structure of the CE Report and a summary of the key themes raised through the public consultation. Further briefings will be held in January before the final date for motions on 24 January. An invitation was circulated before Christmas for a briefing on the core strategy of the draft plan on Thursday 17 January. It is intended to issue further invitations for briefings for each local area committee.



set for the County Development Plan.

#### **Residential Developments**

On 17 December 2021 the Planning and Development Act (2021) was amended to introduce the new Large-scale Residential Development (LRD) process. This change follows the Programme for Government commitment to end the Strategic Housing Development (SHD) arrangements. The amended Act provides the detail on the process to be followed by applicants and local authorities. The SHD process can continue for those planning applications that have already commenced the stage 2 SHD process, but no new planning application proposals can now follow the SHD process.

#### Avonbeg Active Travel

The contractor, Clonmel Enterprises Ltd., was appointed in November 2021 for the Avonbeg active travel scheme and began site investigation in December. The works are scheduled to begin in January 2022, to complete the site works by summer 2022. The works include the narrowing of Avonbeg road to create a new shared pathway and verge along Whitestown Stream, as well as slowing speeds and discouraging through traffic while allowing for ease of residential movement and the retention of on-street parking.

Residents and local councillors have been engaged with throughout the process and the design was adjusted based on their input. All works will be completed within working hours (7:30 -17:00 Monday to Friday).

Once completed, the project will provide over 1.5 km of safe sustainable travel route. 80 new trees. a 500sqm new plaza/entrance at St Dominic's School, and a slower safety driving environment for the Avonbeg area.



A new process for Large-scale Residential Developments is now in place.



National Road Safety Action Plan

The National Road Safety Action Plan -Vision Zero was launched on 14 December 2021. The strategy aims to reduce road deaths and serious injuries by 50% by 2030, i.e. reducing deaths on Ireland's roads annually from 144 to 72 or lower. The strategy will be backed by approximately €3.8 billion investment and includes 50 high impact actions and 136 support actions.



#### **Housing Delivery Action** Plan 2022-2026

nder the national housing plan, Housing for All, the Council has produced a Housing Delivery Action Plan (HDAP), outlining details of proposed social and affordable housing delivery for 2022-2026. This detailed action plan shows how we will meet our targets for social housing and contribute to overall housing delivery under Housing for All. It builds on our regular updates to Councillors about our new housing proposals, particularly through mixed tenure developments. It also details proposed partnerships with Approved Housing Bodies, who are required to provide up to 50% of delivery, and projected new homes through Part V.

In all, HDAP shows planned delivery over the next five years of 3,707 new social homes across the County as well as 2,730 affordable homes. Larger projects will be supplemented by a range of smaller, infill, age-friendly, Traveller accommodation and other developments providing bespoke solutions to meet priority housing needs across various locations in a rounded response to analysis of local housing needs.

As the plan progresses, the Council will regularly update elected members and the Housing Strategic Policy Committee on all aspects of delivery including geographical distribution, tenure mix, typology and, most crucially, impact on housing demand and meeting priority needs.



Housing Delivery Action Plan The Council has produced a Housing Delivery Action Plan 2022 - 2026.

#### **Housing Allocations**

2021 saw more than 700 new tenancies allocated by the Council, up more than 20% on recent years. This was achieved due to ongoing collaboration between the Council's allocations, rents, estate management and maintenance teams and in partnership with various Approved Housing Bodies. New developments in Lucan, Clondalkin, Ballyboden and Kingswood, along with various re-let and leased properties all contributed to many households and families getting their new homes in a year that saw the most allocations in a single year since the formation of this Council.

#### **Community Activities Fund**

The Community Activities Fund (CAF) providing funding support to community groups, particularly in disadvantaged areas opens for applications in late January with a closing date of 5pm on Friday, 25th February.

The CAF is funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development and administered by the Local Community Development Committees (LCDC) in South Dublin County. It will provide support for:

- Facility development/renovation/repair/improvement;
- CCTV/energy efficiency/outdoor improvements;
- Equipment purchase;
- Non-pay costs (e.g. utility bills, waste collection charges, insurance costs etc.)

See www.sdcc.ie for more details.



#### Local Authority Home Loans

The new Local Authority Home Loans Scheme (LAHL) has replaced the previous Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan for the purchase of new or second-hand homes and self-builds. LAHL can also be used to fund buying a home through Tenant Purchase and Affordable Housing schemes and sees increased income limits of €65,000 for single applicants for homes up to €320,000. Visit www.sdcc.ie for more information.



#### **Christmas Craft Fairs**

There was a great start to the festive season at Ballyroan and Tallaght libraries with the Christmas Craft Fairs. Ballyroan hosted 25 local craftspeople and small businesses, as well as local community groups, Ballyroan Men's Shed and Home from Home Dodder Area. Items on sale included handmade Christmas decorations. candles. jewellery, wood craft, cards and prints, jams and puddings and much more. The vendors reported brisk sales, with over 1200 people attending the fair, and a further 150 attending the festive magic show and Santa's Grotto on the day.

There were 28 stalls in Tallaght library featuring the work of local crafters. The Fair was busy all day with almost 900 visitors. The main purpose of the fair was to showcase local crafts and promote small local businesses.

#### North Clondalkin Library **Sensory Garden Opens**

orth Clondalkin Library (NCL) launched its sensory garden on 30 November as part of South Dublin County Council's programme of events to celebrate National Disability Week. Sensory gardens include features, surfaces, objects, and plants that stimulate our senses through touch, sight, and hearing. They are popular with and beneficial to both children and adults, including those with sensory processing issues including autism.

South Dublin Libraries continues to ensure that the Council's commitment to make NCL an inclusive and accessible space is realised, adding to the accessibility features of the building, such as the Changing

Places facility, braille stock, and accessible self-service technologies. The Sensory Garden project was undertaken by South Dublin Libraries with the help of the local Men's Shed and with grant aid from the Dormant Accounts Fund.

Economic, Enterprise and

**Jourism Development** 

A programme of events ran across the library network, including A Sensory Magic Table in Castletymon, a course in accessing digital media held in Lucan, a talk on Autism Awareness and Understanding at Ballyroan and Sensory Friendly Time in both Tallaght and Clondalkin, while the mobile library visited the patients at Peamount Hospital.



North Clondalkin Library The Council launched a new sensory garden in North Clondalkin Library.

#### Local Live County Tour

For five weeks in November and December the Mobile Music Machine provided a series of forty Covid Care Concerts to residents of Nursing homes throughout the county. The concerts took place both inside and outside of the nursing homes. Sixteen musicians and singers, including Red Hurley and Claudia Boyle, performed a range of seasonal songs from well-known operas and some jazz favourites.

The initiative is funded under the Local Live Performance South Dublin programme and is funded by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media.





#### ComicFest

Tallaght Library held its first ever ComicFest towards the end of the year, supported by the Creative Ireland Programme South Dublin. The outcome was a highly engaging festival of all things comics with six days of talks and workshops for young and old, delivered by writers and illustrators working in the comics industry. There were 21 events in total taking place in Tallaght Library and online.



#### **National Accessibility Week**

A ational Accessibility Week 2021 took place and ran until Monday 6 December. The week-long accessibility awareness campaign coincided with International Day of Disabled Persons which occurs each year on the 3rd of December.

National Accessibility Week is an important annual opportunity for local authorities to encourage everyone to focus on issues of accessibility for disabled people. Councils, businesses and community groups across the country are using the Week to highlight the accessibility of their facilities and services; and to encourage wider society to also be more inclusive of the varied access needs of disabled people. South Dublin County Council promoted accessibility and highlighted positive examples of accessibility across our social media platforms and website throughout the Week. County Hall, Tallaght was also lit up on December 3rd in purple to celebrate disabled people and highlight that not all disabilities are visible.



National Accessibility Week National Accessibility Week took place in early December.

#### Freedom of the County

The Honorary Freedom of South Dublin County will be conferred on Ms Jackie Fox at a ceremony on Thursday, 20 January. Elected members agreed to honour Ms Fox in recognition of her campaigning for legislation to make online bullying a crime and its passage into law as 'Coco's Law' and in honour of her daughter, Nicole.

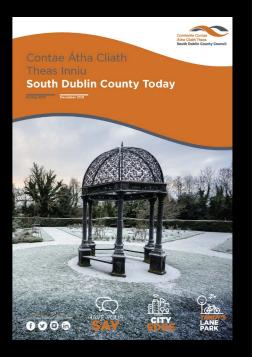
On that date, Ms Fox's name will be inscribed on the roll of Honorary Freedom of South Dublin County pursuant to the provisions of the Local Government Act 2001.

#### Women in Politics

South Dublin County Council has appointed Sinéad Doody to carry out research into the experience of female candidates in the local elections in 2019 and provide recommendations for how the Council can support candidates in the 2024 local elections. Sinéad has extensive experience as a strategy consultant and facilitator developed over 30 years in the private, public and community/ voluntary sectors.

Funding for the research was awarded to the Council by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage under the 'Call for proposals to support females and diversity in Local Government' initiative. This initiative builds on the 2020 grant awarded to the Council and release of a Women in Politics' promotional video in 2021.





#### South Dublin County Today

The Winter edition of South Dublin County Today was released and includes up to date information on the diverse range of services and initiatives delivered by South Dublin County Council. This edition includes Be Winter Ready tips and highlights from key projects in 2021.

You can download your copy by visiting www.sdcc.ie.





#### Public Consultation for **Corkagh Park**

formal Part 8 public consultation process is underway for the proposed enhancements and upgrades at Corkagh Park.

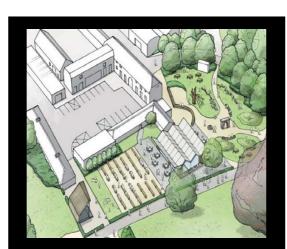
The development will include the construction of a new 'hub zone' to include a café building with ten public toilets, kitchen, internal seating, multi-use events space with a stage and hard-standing area, soft-landscaping with formal seating areas, picnic areas, amenity lawn, mounds, incidental play area, and planting.

St. John's Wood Car Park, the Green Isle Car Park and the car park at the Outer Ring Road entrance will be upgraded to include resurfacing,

improved pedestrian links and footpaths along with the replacement of existing gates, 11 metre high arrival beacons and future-proofing for electric vehicle charging points.

Included in the proposal is the further development of a sense of place throughout the park which includes the enhancement of the primary and secondary routes in the park, creating strong links back to Clondalkin Village and to the main entrances.

The proposal has been subject to environmental reporting and screening as well as other surveys and assessments. Submissions or observations may be made in writing up to 5 pm on 9 February 2022 and can be made on the Council's consultation portal or by post.



**Corkagh Park** A public consultation on an exciting upgrade to Corkagh Park is underway.

#### Something for Everyone

There are 49 playspaces to enjoy across South Dublin County and teenspaces have recently opened in Collinstown Park, Ballycragh Park and Tandy's Lane Park. They contain features such as calisthenics bars, parkour equipment and tegball tables. There are four dog parks located in some of our larger parks throughout the County; these can be found at Griffeen Valley Park and Waterstown Park, Lucan, Tymon Regional Park and Corkagh Park, Clondalkin. We also have several walking routes, with a long-distance route, the Dublin Mountains Way, commencing in Sean Walsh Park, Tallaght

#### Aim for a Healthy Start

Heading into 2022 we thought it would be timely to provide a summary of facilities in our parks that can support communities to keep fit, get some fresh air, and improve health and mental well-being. All South Dublin County Council parks are available to the public to access for walking, cycling in a pedestrian priority environment, jogging, dog walking or just wandering along enjoying the fresh air and great scenery.

We have over 1,500 hectares of parkland and public open space with wide, accessible paths in our parks so get out and enjoy! For the more active or people wishing to improve their fitness or enhance their walking or jogging session, we have exercise equipment within several parks.

The Dodder Greenway is developing along the Dodder Valley so expect improvements to be unveiled throughout 2022 with new pedestrian and cycle bridge accesses and upgrades to existing routes, which will be a great asset to this beautiful parkland.



Get active in the New Year at one of our fantastic parks.



#### Get Involved in Sports

The Council's parks contain a variety of pitches and facilities which represent many different sports including GAA, soccer, hockey, athletics, rugby, cricket and baseball. We also have a bowling green at Greenhills Park. So, if you have an interest in any of these sports, contact your local club, and get involved!. It would be a great way to get active and make new friends in the New Year!

## 'Living With Trees' Launched



#### The Council launched its five year tree management policy, 'Living With Trees' in December.

he Mayor of South Dublin County, Cllr Peter Kavanagh, has launched South Dublin County Council's Tree Management Policy – 'Living with Trees' 2021-2026 in Corkagh Park, Monday 20 December. The Mayor planted an oak tree, or quercus petraea - an Dair ghaelachor the traditional Irish oak to mark the launch of the policy.

'Living with Trees' 2021-2026 - the

Council's Tree Management Policy for the next five years will continue to highlight the importance of trees in our County.

The main objectives of the policy are,

- To continue to implement a proactive tree management programme.
- To expand the tree canopy in the County.

#### A Five Year Plan

The 2021-2026 policy builds on the five-year workplan of the previous policy, which achieved the surveying of 30,000 trees, the implementation of the cyclical management regime of street trees and the planting of 6,314 new trees.

The plan aims to continue to survey all street trees to produce an objective prioritised tree maintenance schedule and a proactive tree management programme. We will expand the tree canopy in the County to combat Climate Change. Trees act as carbon sinks, storing carbon as they grow, reducing carbon dioxide (CO2) in the To implement a public awareness and education programme.

systematic approach to tree management, resulting in a healthier tree population and creating a greener, more sustainable environment for residents and visitors to the County.

Speaking at the launch, Mayor Kavanagh said,

"Trees provide great benefits in so many ways - economic, social, environmental, ecological and aesthetic benefits, as well as enhancing biodiversity and mitigating Climate Change. They contribute to the character, appearance, and wellbeing of the County. This Tree Management Policy, 'Living with Trees' 2021-26,



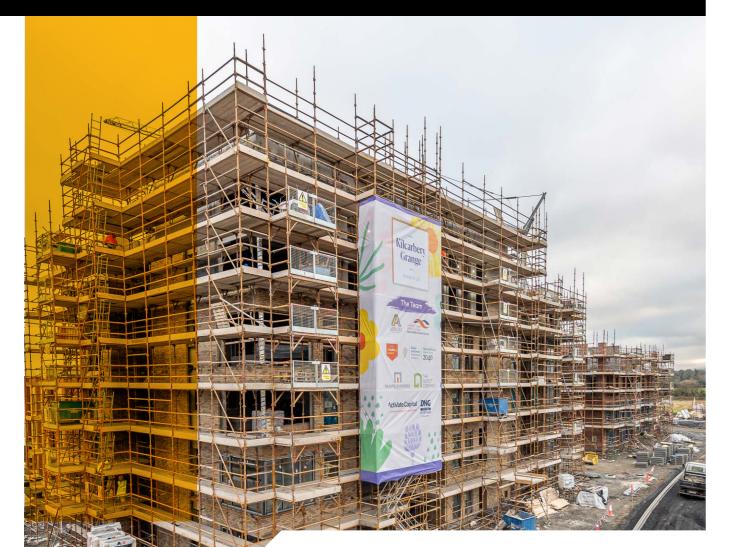
This policy allows for a pro-active and

represents our ongoing commitment to look after and enhance one of our most valuable natural resources.

Planting this oak tree marks the launch of the County's second Tree Management Policy. This oak will grow, prosper and provide shelter and beauty for visitors to Corkagh Park for hundreds of years."

You can find South Dublin County Council's Tree Management Policy 2021-2026 - Living with Trees at www.sdcc.ie.

## Work Progressing On Kilcarbery



Work is progressing on site at South Dublin County Council's joint venture development of 1,034 homes at Kilcarbery in Clondalkin, Dublin 22.

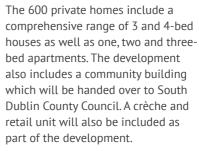
ork is continuing at the Council's joint venture development of 1,034 homes at Kilcarbery in Clondalkin, Dublin 22. Approximately 250 homes are currently under construction on site with the first social homes due for completion in the second quarter of 2022.74 cost rental homes are also due for completion in the middle of the year along with 16 affordable or discounted homes.

The mixed tenure development, on 72.8 acres of council lands at Kilcarbery will include 310 social housing units or 30% of the development. Adwood Ltd (a consortium of Dublin builders Adroit and Maplewood) will develop the site which will be built over a four-year period, including the 310 social housing units scheduled to be delivered at competitive build rates averaging €166,000 per unit.

### Delivering Affordable Homes

The Kilcarbery development is just one site where the Council is working to deliver affordable homes in South Dublin County. The Council has put plans in the pipeline to deliver 620 new homes at Killinarden in Tallaght. The integrated mixed tenure five-year development is heavily weighted towards the provision of affordable purchase homes with 60% of the development is projected to sell for an average of €250,000 or less per home, with 20% to be delivered as social housing.

Details on more housing projects due to commence in 2022 can be found on pages 20 - 21.



During a visit to the site in 2021, Minister Darragh O'Brien commended the Council on the development and said,

"This mixed tenure development which will provide 310 social homes, reflects the Government's commitment to providing homes for families in their area of choice further empowering people to stay in their communities and safeguard the quality of life for all who live within them. Schemes



such as this one here in Kilcarbery are exactly what we want to see replicated across the country, delivering a mix of homes, built to a very high standard, at affordable prices.

I would like to commend South Dublin County Council on bringing these projects to fruition. They are also continuing in their plans to develop more affordable housing across South County Dublin with the support of my Department."

Over 1,000 new homes will be delivered at Kilcarbery.

## **Creative Ireland** Funding



Eight winners of Creative Ireland South Dublin funding awards were announced in December.

ight South Dublin-based film makers and creative entrepreneurs have been awarded funding totalling €35,000 by Creative Ireland South Dublin in partnership with Local Enterprise Office (LEO) South Dublin . All eight winners are members of SCENe, The South Dublin Creative Economy Network.

Three awards were made under the Film Award category to support local

filmmakers develop their talent and creativity. They receive €10,000 each to be used towards the cost of production of a short drama or documentary, in South Dublin County.

A further five awards were made under the Creative Social Enterprises and Creative Entrepreneur Award category. They each receive up to €1,000 in funding to be used towards business development, craft skills and

#### South Dublin Creative Economy Network

SCENe: South Dublin Creative Economy Network is the partnership of Local Enterprise Office South Dublin, South Dublin County Council, The Design and Craft Council of Ireland, Creative Ireland and Visual Artists Ireland. It provides members from a wide range of creative backgrounds with a comprehensive catalogue of support and a broad calendar of events for members.

For more information about SCENE and for membership details, see

career progression within their area of expertise.

The Creative Social Enterprises and Creative Entrepreneur Award is a funding award programme run by Creative Ireland South Dublin in partnership with LEO South Dublin for people working in arts and crafts, design, fashion, furniture, glass making, etc. It invited proposals that demonstrated the development of business and craft skills for those pursuing a professional career in the sector. The Film Award is a funding award programme run by Creative Ireland South Dublin and LEO South Dublin that invited proposals by film makers who have a developed script which has been seen by a director and has input from a producer.

SCENE

# **South Dublin Creative Economy** Network

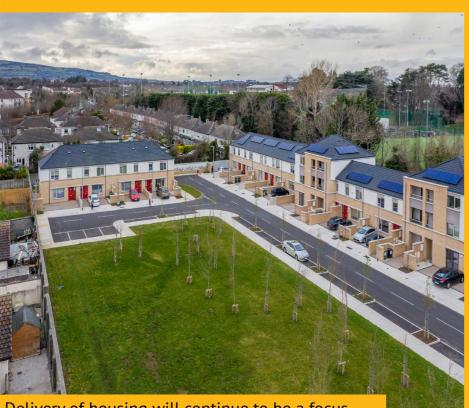
Carla Fazio of Creative Ireland said at the announcement of the awards that.

"We are delighted to introduce these awards and support creative enterprise in South Dublin County and look forward to celebrating the achievements or our SCENe members".

A list of all winning entries can be found on www.sdcc.ie.



All eight winners are members of SCENe.



Delivery of housing will continue to be a focus



Each year South Dublin County Council prepares and updates its plans for capital investment in the County.

he Capital Investment Programme involves new build projects across a range of physical and social infrastructure areas that go to the heart of our role, in supporting and sustaining existing and new communities. The programme includes the most critical of our infrastructural requirements, housing, roads and water services, while also providing for the recreation and wellbeing of our citizens.

The programme builds on the success of work undertaken in 2021 where, despite Covid restrictions, very real progress was made in the planning, design and tendering of many of our projects. Notably, we opened two new libraries in Clondalkin and Tymon, a quality park at Tandy's Lane, Old Bawn pavilion, Teen Spaces at Collinstown and Firhouse and the 3rd phase of the Dodder Valley Greenway.

Housing projects commenced at Kilcarbery, Whitestown Way and Templeoque Village. Other projects that started on site this year were the Tallaght District Heating scheme, Airlie Park Adamstown, N81 landscaping contract and Templeoque village renewal works. All these projects will be opened in 2022, together with Lucan Leisure Centre, Rathcoole Courthouse, Kiltipper Park Phase 2, Dodder Valley/Mount Carmel Phase 3, Celbridge Link Road and Grange Castle West Access Road. Housing projects to be completed next year include Fernwood/ Maplewood, Riversdale, Homeville, St. Catherine's and Greenfort.

## A Focus on the

## **Capital Investment Programme**

2022 will see the commencement of significant elements of our Capital Programme. New housing projects will commence at St. Marks, Balgaddy, Nangor Road, Brady's Field at Old Bawn and Clonburris. Teenspace provision will continue with projects at Griffeen, Avonbeg, Whitechurch and Bancroft. Cycle projects will include Avonbeg, Tallaght to Knocklyon, Dodder Valley Phase 4 and the Grand Canal extension at Grangecastle. Community projects of note also due for commencement include Saggart Community Centre, Templeogue Intergenerational Centre and Killinarden Park. A substantial village renewal programme for Lucan will go to planning in January and will commence before the year-end. Tallaght central will see the most activity with construction commencing on the final phase of Tallaght Stadium, the Innovation Centre, the transport Mobility Hub, Sean Walsh Park astro pitch, Innovation Square, the renewal of Chamber Square and associated pedestrian walkways.



A number of projects appear in the programme for the first time, while others have been further costed and expanded including:

- New mixed tenure housing schemes at Clonburris and Killinarden, affordable rental apartments at Belgard North, new affordable housing at Kilcarbery and Age Friendly schemes at St Ronan's, St Aongus and Pearse Brother Park.
- New pitches, a pavilion and associated parking at Rathcoole.
- A substantial village renewal project for Clondalkin.
- A new astro pitch in the East of the county.
- New libraries in West Dublin and Adamstown.
- New community centres in Balgaddy, Newcastle, Killinarden, City West, Kilcarbery, Ballycullen and Clonburris.
- A Heritage/Interpretive Centre in Tallaght.
- A substantial investment in Rathfarnham Castle Stables.
- The redevelopment of parks at St. Cuthberts, Jobstown and Quarryvale.
- The development of a liner walkway at Whitestown stream.
- Lucan Micro Enterprise Centre – the planned repurposing of the industrial unit at the 12th Lock.
- Significant investment for the 12th Lock area is envisaged, arising from the economic opportunities study soon to be commissioned.

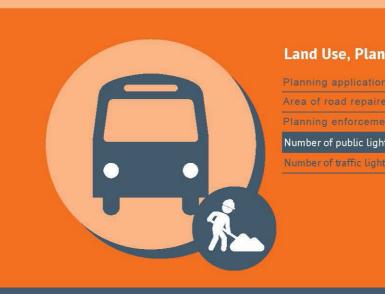
The social and economic value of this capital investment is very significant. It underpins our ambition, delivers for existing and future communities and in doing so, will provide extensive employment and materials supply opportunities for the local economy to make South Dublin County a vibrant and inclusive place for the people who live, visit, work and do business here, now and for the future.

## January Statistics Report Highlights



#### Corporate Performance and Change Management

anange management	
umber of Customer Care queries closed within deadline	6,948
/eb pages opened on Council websites	173,468
ocial media reach	1,097,319
ocial media engagement	33,553



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#### Economic, Enterprise and Tourism Development

LEO - Number of mentoring sessions	43
Grange Castle jobs sustained	5,328
Library visitors (online)	11,863
Business support grants spend	13,591

# 

#### Environment, Water and Climate Change

Trees pruned	1,492
Kilometers of road swept monthly	980
Derelict site/dangerous buildings inspections	19
Litter - Fines Issued	21
Tonnes of waste collected – litter and illegal dumping	945
Tonnes of waste collected from street bins	41

## You can view all statistics under the Statistics Report in the Manager's Report headed item of the monthly Council meeting.

#### Housing, Socia

Total Housing Stock Total housing needs as Visitors to leisure cen Allocations - New Ten Number of sports prog Number of actions tak Electrical inspections

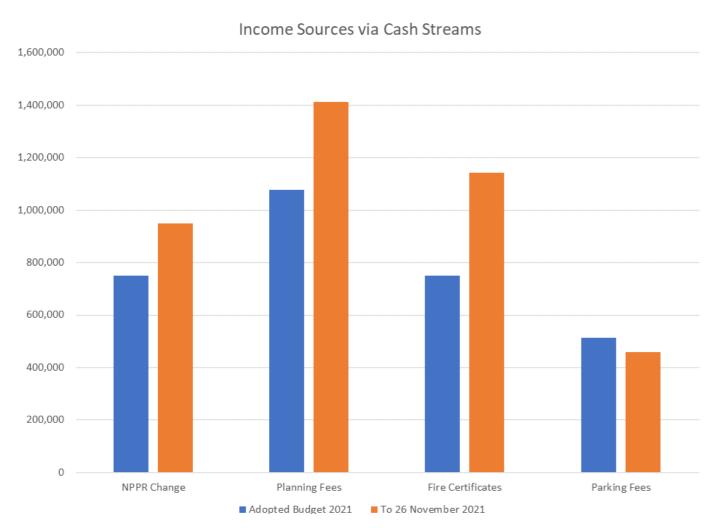
#### and Community Development

	9,668
ssessed	7,167
nters	26,620
nancies	73
gramme participants	11,727
ken in response to anti-social reports	436
completed	80

#### Land Use, Planning and Transportation

is received - new housing units	90
ed in m2	6,200
nts initiated	12
ts in charge	30,731
ts repaired within 24 hours	54

## Finance Report



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

## Images of the Month





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