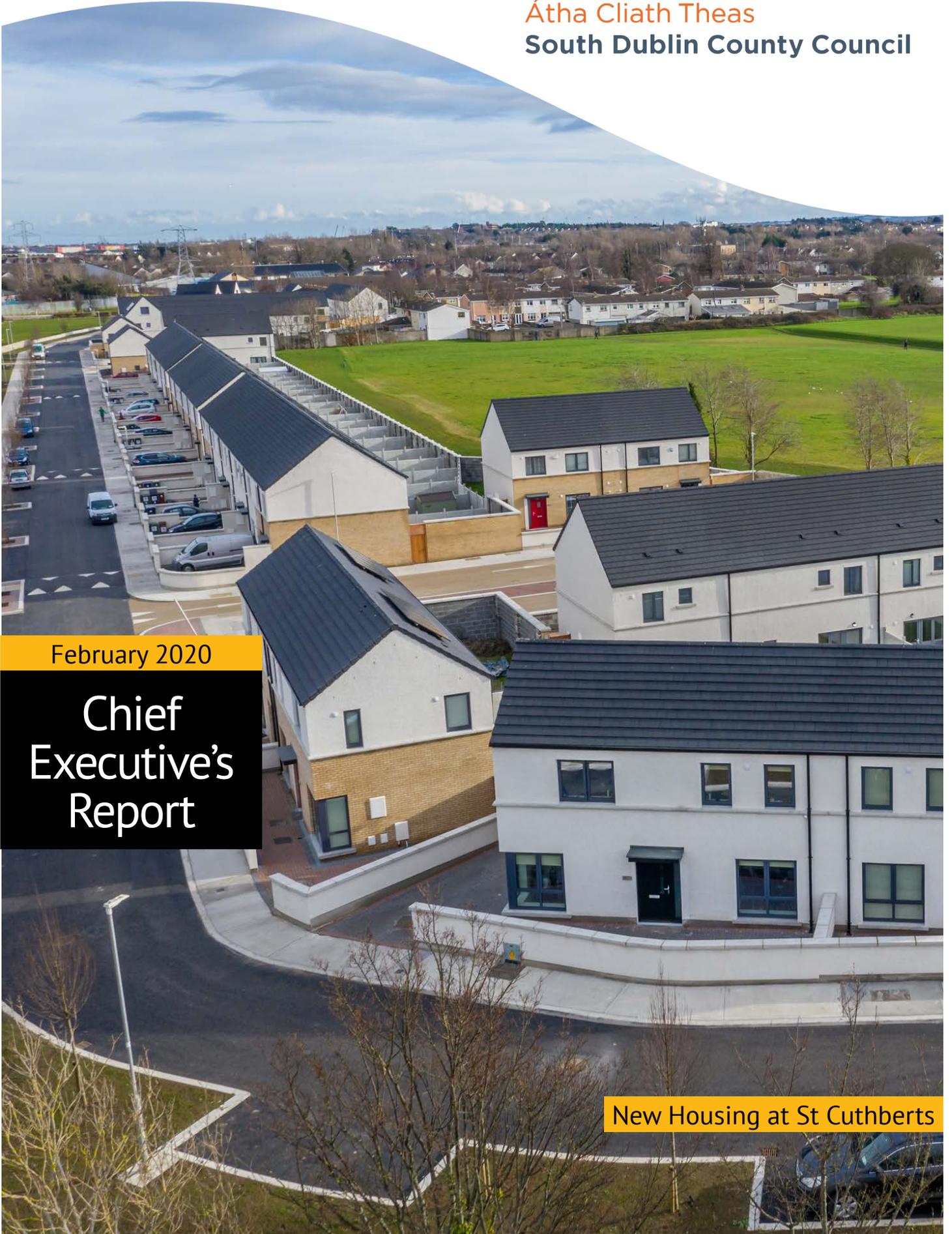




Comhairle Contae  
Átha Cliath Theas  
South Dublin County Council



February 2020

# Chief Executive's Report

New Housing at St Cuthberts

# 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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# LAND USE PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION

## Tallaght Local Area Plan

South Dublin County Council considered the proposed Chief Executive's report on the draft Tallaght Local Area Plan on 24 January 2020.

A total of 57 motions were put forward by Councillors and on the night, there was a robust assessment of these. An agreement was reached on all motions and subsequently, the Council agreed to make the plan.

The next step is for Council staff to incorporate these changes into the local area plan and to identify what changes are material and would, therefore, require a further round of public consultation.

Any further round of consultation would then take place in the coming months, the outcome of which would need to be considered again by the Council.



## New School for Rathcoole

In December 2019, the Minister for Education and Skills announced that a new primary school will be built in Rathcoole to cater for the growing population in this area. The next step for the Department is to decide on patronage and to work with the Council to confirm the exact site, the design of the school and the timing for delivery.

## Dodder Greenway

The proposed Dodder Greenway is being developed to be a greenway of international renown and to be on a par with the best greenways in the world. A greenway is a strip of undeveloped land near an urban area, set aside for recreational use or environmental protection.

When complete it is envisaged that the Dodder Greenway route will be over 17km long, linking Sir John Rogerson's Quay in the City Centre to the entrance to the Bohernabreena reservoirs at Glenasmole, South Dublin. South Dublin County Council are responsible for 14km of the route from the Bohernabreena Reservoir to Orwell Park in

Rathfarnham.

Phase 1 works within South Dublin are due to commence in February 2020 and will include the provision of three new bridges over the Dodder, which will help provide much improved and accessible connections for people along the length of the Dodder. These works will also include widening existing and the provision of new shared paths, as well as new and improved public lighting and landscaping works.

Phase 2 is currently in a detailed design phase with works expected to commence in late 2020. These works will see the delivery of improved linkages along the entire length of the route.



### Dodder Greenway

Phase 1 of the Dodder Greenway works is due to begin in February.

## Tandy's Lane Public Park

The Council has appointed a contractor to deliver the new Tandy's Lane 8 hectare public park in Adamstown.

The park is funded jointly by the Council and the Government via the Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund and will cost approximately €5,000,000. There are over 3,000 homes either completed or under construction in Adamstown with a further 400 permitted. Tandy's Lane park is one of three new public parks that will be built in Adamstown and is the first to start on-site. The works will be completed in January 2021.



Tandy's Lane Public Park contract signing

# HOUSING SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



## New Homes in 2019

Over 540 households on the South Dublin Housing List received keys to their new homes throughout 2019. The number of new tenancies represents a significant increase on 2018 figures and is a result of the Council's own building programme, reallocation of existing stock and collaboration with Approved Housing Bodies.

High standard new developments such as St. Cuthbert's, Owendoher, and an extra nine units in Killinarden Court delivered by the Council with funding support from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government were allocated in 2019.

In addition, Part V delivery and the purchase of new build homes for social housing in estates such as Somerton (Respond Housing) and Westpark (Cluid Housing) by Approved Housing Bodies were also allocated to families from the Council's Housing List.



## Sport Partnership

With the New Year, Operation Transformation is back on television screens and once again people around the country are being motivated and encouraged to get active and stay healthy. As in previous years, South Dublin Sports Partnership is again offering support to local groups to organise walks or other activities that will get the whole community active.

## Design Team appointed for Affordable Housing Development at Belgard Square North

On 20 January 2020, the Council signed contracts with Coady Partnership Architects for the design of an affordable residential apartment development on Council owned lands adjoining Belgard Square North. The apartment complex together with a new public plaza are the initial projects in the proposed Innovation Quarter for Tallaght town centre.

The Council sought tenders in October 2018 for an architect led multi-disciplinary design team and, following an assessment of proposals received, Coady Partnership

Architects were identified as the preferred tenderer.

The Council are now in the processing of selecting an Approved Housing Body to partner with us on this project. Then, upon completion of the design of the apartment development, the proposal will be brought through the Part 8 planning process and, subject to approval, work will commence on site in 2021.



## Affordable Housing

Contracts have been signed with Coady Partnership Architects

## Collinstown Grove Homes

The Council, in partnership with Tuath Housing, is delighted to announce the delivery of four new homes at Collinstown Grove, including two specifically designed to enable independent living for persons with disabilities.

The specially adapted homes include extra-wide driveways, large ground floor bedrooms with accessible shower and toilet facilities in close-proximity, flush front and rear thresholds and extra-large accessible rear doors. These homes have now been allocated to families who will be in their new homes this month.



*Specially adapted homes have been delivered in Collinstown Grove*



# ECONOMIC ENTERPRISE AND TOURISM DEVELOPMENT

## Sustaining the Arts

South Dublin County Council Arts Grants and Bursary Schemes are now open for applications. The Schemes run on an annual basis and aim to support established and emerging artists in all art forms to develop their practice and produce ambitious works of art.

It also supports the participation of amateur, voluntary and community organisations in the arts. Hundreds of awards have been made in since the introduction of the bursary scheme, supporting everyone from marching bands to international artists. For the recipients of these awards, the impact can be far-reaching in opening doors to other opportunities.

Criteria and application form are available on <http://www.sdcc.ie/services/parks-and-recreation/arts/arts-grants-and-bursary-awards>



## Local Enterprise Week

The Local Enterprise Office was recently launched with a full schedule soon to be released.

Local Enterprise Week 2020 takes place this year from Monday, 2 March to Friday, 6 March.

## Cultural Quarter Development

Supporting collaboration between cultural organisations in Tallaght including the Library and Arts Service is a key strategy of the Council to enhance the cultural experience of people living, working in or visiting Tallaght.

There was a focus on three projects in 2019 which were delivered under the programmes: Ready Steady Show Early Years, Melt the Walls, a design-led neighbourhood consultation and installation in Chamber Square and Unwrapped Winter Festival. The projects prioritised engagement with communities and schools who may not have had previous contact with the organisations in the Cultural Quarter.

The Cultural Quarter organisations have also come together around Cultural Diversity and together host the Mother Tongues Festival (22nd-23rd Feb 2020) which celebrates linguistic diversity through the arts in Ireland. The Festival has presented events in over 20 different languages since its inception in 2018. Its aim is to showcase Ireland's rich artistic and cultural tapestry through the use of the many languages spoken in the country

Mother Tongues also present the See Through Café each month in Rua Red. It is a free and open space for people who have an interest in art, diversity, community. February's special guest will be Mandla Rae, a Zimbabwean born poet and performer, with readings by local community participants.



### Cultural Quarter

An exciting programme of events are upcoming in the Cultural Quarter

## NOISE Moves

NOISE Moves Youth Dance Festival has been announced for 2 and 3 May 2020 at The Civic Theatre and Rua Red. Local and National youth dance companies will gather to perform and participate in this annual festival. Young people will participate in dance workshops, experience the process making work.

The festival will open with performances from young artists in the Emergence Choreographic Mentoring programme and close with the Main Stage Performance from Youth Dance groups from South Dublin County and around the country. Tickets go on sale in March.



NOISE Moves makes a welcome return in May 2020



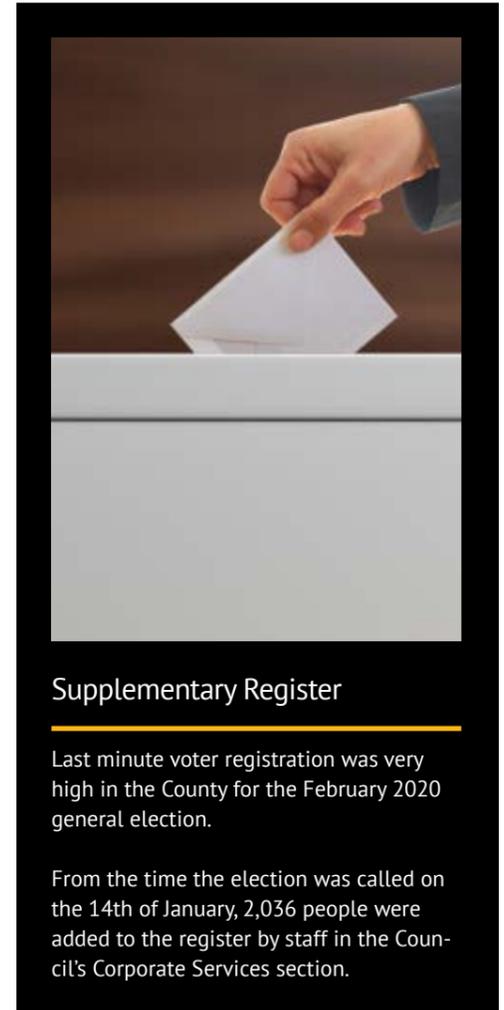
# CORPORATE PERFORMANCE AND CHANGE MANAGEMENT

## Service Delivery Plan

The 2020 Annual Service Delivery Plan (ASDP) is delivered to elected members at this February's Council meeting. The purpose of the ASDP is to identify the key services that South Dublin County Council intends to deliver to the public during 2020. Each year, after the council adopts the budget, the Council then adopts a service delivery plan with specific targets based on the objectives in the corporate plan.

At the end of each year, we produce a report setting out the Corporate Plan achievements for the past year and measure progress. The elected members review this progress before the Annual Report for that year is published.

This Service Delivery Plan for 2020 details our commitments and plans for the year ahead and a graphic summary of the detailed plan is delivered to every household, business and school in the county. We publish our Annual Report on the council's website [www.sdcc.ie](http://www.sdcc.ie) and copies are available on request from your local library.



## Supplementary Register

Last minute voter registration was very high in the County for the February 2020 general election.

From the time the election was called on the 14th of January, 2,036 people were added to the register by staff in the Council's Corporate Services section.

## Innovation Seminar

There was an incredible turnout from staff from across the organisation for the first in a series of staff talks on the subject of 'Innovation' which took place in the Council Chamber in January.

A sample of some of the exciting, pioneering and innovative projects on-going in the council were showcased including: The Tallaght District Heating project, The County Promotion Unit's Mobile Heritage App, The Tallaght innovation Centre and the pioneering use of drones by Council staff in the Enforcement and Licensing section.

These ground-breaking projects were explained by those closest to them which gave those staff attending a real-life insight into real

innovation-in-action. Staff also had the opportunity to hear about the wider sectoral and regional developments in the area of innovation with presentations from the Assistant Chief Executive from the LGMA with responsibility for innovation, Noeleen McHugh and Alan Murphy from the Smart Dublin team.

South Dublin County Council is a signatory of the Our Public Service Innovation 2020 Declaration on Innovation in the Public Service and is ambitious to do more to support and develop staff to be innovative in the workplace and to do more to incubate a culture of innovation and continuous improvement so as to deliver a better service to our citizens.



### Innovation Seminar

The Council had a huge turnout from staff for a recent innovation seminar.

## Polling Station Access

South Dublin County Council sought to enable access to polling stations for all our citizens at the February 2020 general election.

Electors with a physical illness or physical disability, whose name was not on the postal or special voters list, and who may have difficulty gaining access to their local polling station could apply to have their vote transferred to a more accessible polling station in their constituency. This facility was intended to assist voters who find access to their local polling station difficult because of the design of the building.



Staff from South Dublin County Council sought to ensure equal access to polling stations for our citizens at the February general election.

# ENVIRONMENT WATER AND CLIMATE CHANGE



## Council plants 2,000 trees

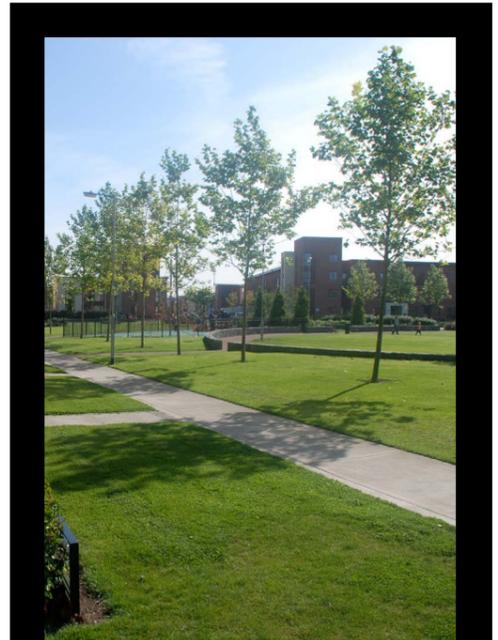
The Council's 2020 street tree planting programme will begin in February with 2,000 trees being planted throughout the county in streets, parks and in open spaces.

The principle of 'right tree in right place' is used with each proposed planting site inspected to determine its suitability for new trees – checking sightlines, services and space. Over 20 different types of trees will be planted to increase the diversity and variety of trees throughout the county.

Trees provide a connection to nature and our surroundings. Planting and caring for trees improve our surroundings, reduces pollution, enhances the appearance of your community, increases the value of a property and improves our health and wellbeing.

A list of locations for tree planting and the proposed tree species is available on the Council's website [www.sdcc.ie](http://www.sdcc.ie).

Nature-based solutions are critical in climate change adaptation; they



(continued) can play an important role not only for biodiversity and ecosystems, flood prevention and carbon sequestration, but also in temperature regulation, water quality, erosion prevention, and filtering pollutants from the air and water.

There are eight tree management related actions in the Council's Climate Change Action Plan 2020 – 2024, which can also be found on [www.sdcc.ie](http://www.sdcc.ie).

## Improving our river water quality

The Dublin Urban Rivers LIFE project seeks to improve water quality in South Dublin and promote water quality improvement in urban areas in Ireland and Europe by making it quicker and cheaper to carry out domestic misconnection inspections. The project is a collaboration between South Dublin County Council, Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council and the EU LIFE Programme.

Domestic misconnections are caused by incorrectly plumbed washing machines and dishwashers which discharge to the rainwater drainage network which flows to the river rather than the foul sewer network. This causes water

pollution and reduces the habitat value of our rivers and streams and reduces our potential to meet the requirements of the Water Framework Directive and the River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2018-2021.

The project is estimated to cost €2.6 million with the EU providing 50% funding and will take four years to complete. South Dublin County Council is the project lead and is currently recruiting staff to join the team. You can keep track of the Dublin Urban Rivers LIFE at the link [www.dublinriverlife.ie](http://www.dublinriverlife.ie) or drop in to County Hall to talk to the staff in the Water Pollution Section.



### Dublin Urban Rivers LIFE

The South Dublin County Council led project seeks to improve water quality.

## Public Realm Works

The annual revenue budget provided by the Council for maintenance of parks and open spaces was approximately €15.5m in 2019 with around €1m provided for a programme of minor improvement works to parks and open spaces. The programme of works consisted of a total of 60 small schemes which included works like the installation of public lighting along footpaths on open spaces, the provision of railings and gates where required and landscaping schemes, among other things.

Similar funding has been provided in the 2020 revenue budget.



Entrance gates and railing at Willsbrook Park

# SHOPFRONT GRANT SCHEME



South Dublin County Council has launched the Shopfront Grant Scheme for 2020.

South Dublin County Council is delighted to launch the Shopfront Grant Scheme for 2020. The scheme is intended to improve the appearance of independently owned shops fronting public streets.

The annual Shopfront Grant Scheme provides grants for something as simple as painting to replacing an entire shopfront., replacing signage or even replacing your entire shopfront,

certain terms and conditions may apply to the market.

Grants are available for a maximum of 50% of overall costs. Furthermore, a prize of €1,000 is awarded for the Best Designed Shopfront under the scheme. Example Grant with overall approved costs of €1,200: SDCC pay €600 - you pay €600.

To apply for the scheme please

## Supporting Business

Freyne's Pharmacy were awarded the Best Designed Shopfront through the scheme and received their grant in 2019.

Sallyann Freyne of Freyne's Pharmacy had this to say,

"Our customers are delighted with the transformation and we are extremely grateful to the Council for their support with this grant. It's a great scheme for small businesses and I would encourage other shop owners to consider applying for this grant. It improves the overall look of our village, which can only be good for business and customers."

complete online Application Form, alternatively you can send a hard copy including all supporting documentation to our office at County Promotion Unit, South Dublin County Council, County Hall, Tallaght, Dublin 24 or via email [econdev@sducubincoco.ie](mailto:econdev@sducubincoco.ie).

Interested parties can also contact the County Promotion Unit on 01 - 4149000 if they have any questions and our team would be happy to help.

The closing date for applications is Friday 27 of March, 2020.

You can find the terms and conditions plus a design guide on [www.sdcc.ie](http://www.sdcc.ie). We would recommend that anyone interested in applying should review them before submitting their application.

The Shopfront Grant Scheme is just one of a number of ways the Council supports local business.

Local Enterprise Office South Dublin are at the forefront of strengthening the enterprise sector in the County by providing direct support to entrepreneurs with a good business idea.

If you live in South Dublin County and are thinking "I could do that" and want to be an entrepreneur but you're not sure how, why not talk to a member of the LEO South Dublin team? You can drop in to the office at County Hall, Tallaght or visit [www.localenterprise.ie/southdublin](http://www.localenterprise.ie/southdublin) for more information.



The Temple Hair and Beauty receiving their grant

# LIGHT UP YOUR BIKE CAMPAIGN



South Dublin County Council, An Garda Síochána and Dublin Cycling Campaign recently collaborated on a Light up Your Bike awareness campaign.

**T**he Light up Your Bike awareness campaign shared advice and helpful lighting-up tips to cyclists at Pearse Bridge on Rathfarnham Road on Wednesday 22 January.

The initiative saw the handing out of free bike lights from the Road Safety Authority (RSA) in an effort to remind cyclists that bike lights aren't just a nice accessory, they are a legal requirement during lighting-up hours

(30 minutes after sunset until 30 minutes before sunrise). After dark, cyclists must have lights on their bikes. If they are stopped by Garda and have no lights, they are liable to receive an on-the-spot fine of €40.

Members of the Council, An Garda Síochána and Dublin Cycling Campaign, were also available to give cyclists tips on staying lit.

## TOP TIPS FOR CYCLISTS!

**Batteries** – If you opt for disposable battery powered lights ensure you have enough power left to complete your journey fully lit. However, a better option might be rechargeable battery powered lights.

**Spares** – It's useful to get into the habit of carrying some spare lights or spare batteries with you – especially if you have a slightly longer commute.

**Beware Thieves** - If your lights are detachable then never, ever leave them attached to your bike while it's unattended.

**Dynamos** - If you are buying a new bike, you may consider getting a dynamo fitted.

Speaking of the initiative, Ally Menary, Road Safety Officer, South Dublin County Council, said: 'Informing cyclists of their obligations to staying lit when cycling at night is such an important road safety initiative. There is no substitute for having working lights on your bike and I'd like to remind cyclists of the importance of staying well lit during the winter months.'

Kevin Baker, Chairperson of Dublin Cycling Campaign, said, "We are delighted to have South Dublin County Council's support for the Light Up Your Bike campaign. Lights are an essential accessory when cycling at night especially during the winter when the nights are much longer."

The Light Up Your Bike campaign is

just the largest initiative South Dublin County Council has promoted. Other campaigns have included the Cycle Rights Initiative with the RSA, which promoted a better understanding between cyclists and professional bus drivers, and the D12 Bike Bus, an initiative currently made up of parent volunteers from the school community who enable their children to cycle safely to school on the road, along a set route, and on a set timetable, every Friday morning.



*Light Up Your Bike Campaign encourages safe cycling*

# FLOOD ALLEVIATION RIVER PODDLE



## Two public information events were held about the River Poddle Flood Alleviation Scheme (FAS) in Tymon Park and in the Mount Argus Community Centre.

The River Poddle FAS has been in preliminary design since March 2018 with a proposed scheme finalised since September 2019. The FAS is in response to the floods that occurred along the river Poddle in October 2011 and the distressing loss of life that was experienced.

From March 2018, initial engagement was made with individual residents and local groups such as the Harolds

Cross Flood Committee and the Records Residents Association in the Whitehall Road area whose lives were greatly affected as a result of the floods experienced in October 2011. Public information days were then held in December 2018

This was followed up by presentations to both South Dublin County Council and Dublin City Council in Autumn 2019 and further public information

## Environmental Impact Assessment

As part of the Part 10 Planning Submission to An Bord Pleanala, an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) will be available to the public during the consultation phase.

This report will address the impact on flora, fauna, habitat and biodiversity, among other things. It will provide mitigation measures to ensure their protection. The EIAR is a substantial document which has been prepared by individual specialists in their fields.

days in November and December 2019.

Nature-based solutions have been a focus of our design to greatly reduce the use of both earthen and hard defences but due to the heavily urbanised nature of the route of the river. Following the review of the original Options Report created in 2014, the hard defences proposed by the report have been reduced by over 75%, with a significant increase in the use of natural earthen embankments.

Every effort has been made by the project team to provide the minimum impact on trees. A comprehensive tree survey has been carried out by an arborist and defences have been redesigned to have minimal impact. A figure of 29 trees is currently estimat-

ed to be affected if An Bord Pleanala approves the scheme. If tree removal is required, it will be replaced locally on a 2 to 1 basis with all new trees being monitored for several years to ensure that they are healthy.

In the coming weeks, the proposed scheme will be submitted directly to An Bord Pleanala for Part 10 Planning. The public will then be invited to submit proposals to An Bord Pleanala during six weeks of statutory public consultation. South Dublin County Council will advertise the dates for the six-week public consultation as soon as they are set.



The launch of [www.poddlefas.ie](http://www.poddlefas.ie)



Killinarden Court, Tallaght



Davis Hall, Adamstown

Final out-turn figures show that over 1,700 households were supported by South Dublin County Council through new social housing supply in 2019.

Under the Rebuilding Ireland Programme, annual targets are set by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government (DHPLG) for each local authority area. Local authorities are responsible for monitoring and delivering on these targets, including through collaboration with Approved Housing Bodies (AHBs). For South Dublin, the overall new build figure delivered in 2019 was 449 – which is 3% above the South Dublin Build target.

These figures include new developments delivered under the Council's social housing construction programme, including those at St. Cuthbert's, Clondalkin

and Owendoher, Ballyboden; homes provided through Part V requirements; and, Council-supported delivery by Approved Housing Bodies through Capital Advance Leasing Facility and the Capital Assistance Scheme in Adamstown, Scholarstown, Greenhills and Citywest amongst other areas.

Additionally, 93 second-hand properties were acquired in the County by the Council or AHBs for social housing in 2019 representing 122% of the target figure of 76 acquisitions. These often provide quick and cost-effective additions to the housing stock in areas with limited social housing to better meet the housing needs of tenants.

## SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL DELIVERING HOUSING



Shackleton Play Space



Tenants receive keys to Milford Manor home

While new supply through long-term leasing has yet to deliver the anticipated numbers nationally, 49 new homes were provided in South Dublin which is underpinned by significant work on developing a strong pipeline of future supply which should yield substantially increased numbers for 2020 and beyond.

As our housing stock continues to increase, we continue to supplement that with flexible supports including the Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) and the Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS) to provide accommodation for those in need. This resulted in 956 households being supported in 2019 including through enhanced HAP supports accelerate exits from homelessness or indeed to prevent homelessness.

In addition, casual vacancies in existing Council and AHB homes meant that a further 175 families and individuals were accommodated in 2019.

The full breakdown of new housing supply in 2019 was as follows

New Build -	449 homes
Acquisitions -	93
Leasing -	49
HAP/RAS -	956
Casual Vacancies -	175
Total	1722 homes

These figures show that the Council are addressing the challenges faced on housing, meeting our targets and making crucial progress for the individuals and families we support. We are continuing to make plans for future housing delivery across South Dublin including through innovative plans for 4,500 homes in mixed tenure developments across large Council-owned sites at Kilcarbery, Clonburris, Killinarden, Rathcoole and Belgard Square. Additional homes will continue to be provided in 2020 and future years.

# JANUARY STATISTICS REPORT HIGHLIGHTS



## Corporate Performance and Change Management

Customer Care Queries processed	4687
Telephone calls answered	9914
Web pages opened on Council websites	202226
Social Media Followers across Council platforms	35823



## Economic, Enterprise and Tourism Development

LEO - Number of mentoring sessions	33
Grange Castle jobs sustained	5328
Library visitors	61479
Visitors to the Civic Theatre and Rua Red	36788



## Environment, Water and Climate Change

Trees pruned	335
Stumps removed	164
Park land maintained	1750 hectares
Playing pitches provided/maintained	163
Tonnes of waste collected - litter and illegal dumping	409
Tonnes of waste collected from street bins	39
No. of bring banks provided	74
No. of green flag schools	136



## Housing, Social and Community Development

Total Housing Stock	9605
Total housing needs assessed	6864
Housing maintenance requests received	1263
Tidy Towns Groups supported	11
Community grants issued	8
Number of sports programme participants	3736
Visitors to leisure facilities	36079

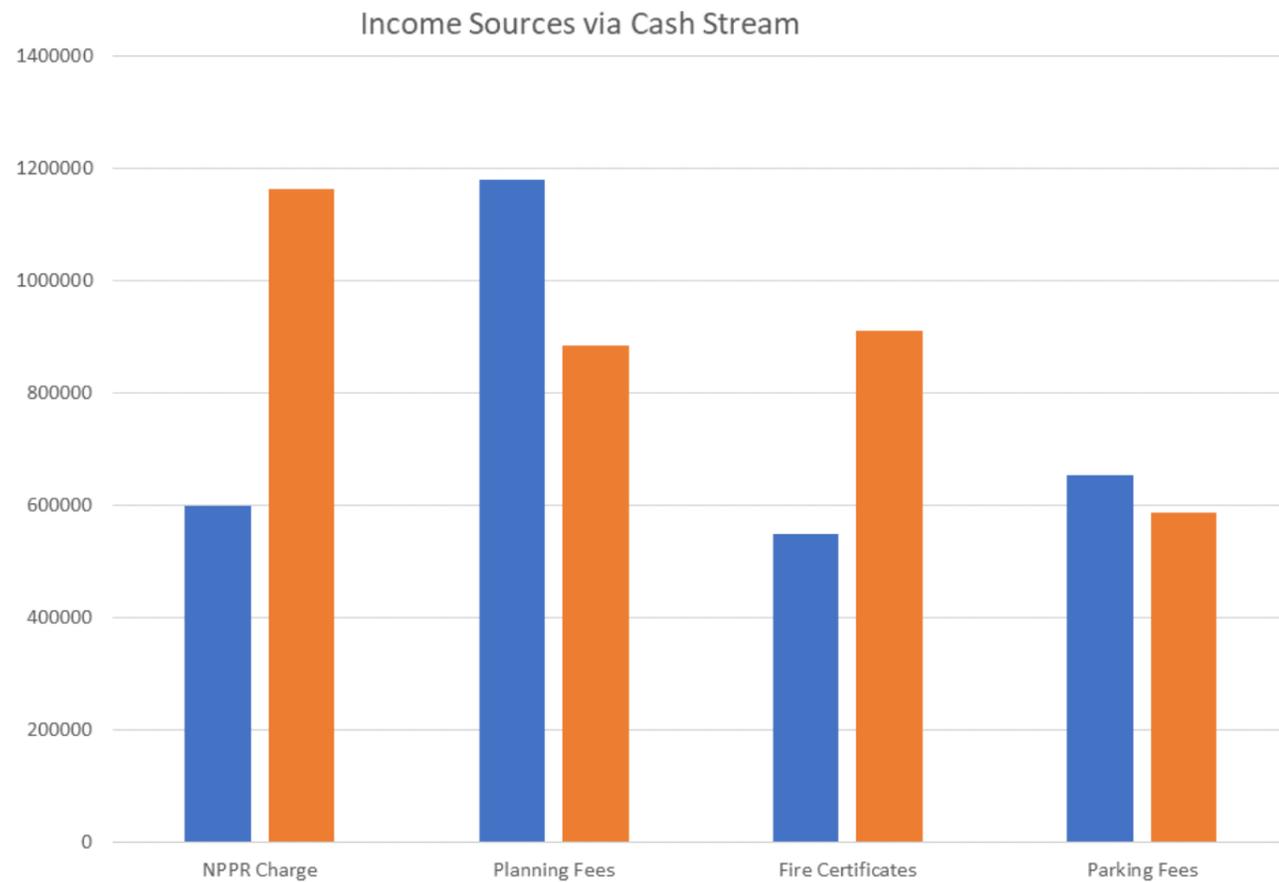


## Land Use, Planning and Transportation

Building control inspections	27
Area of footpath repaired in metres squared (m2)	2105
Area of road repaired in m2	10100
Number of public lights in charge	30134
Number of traffic lights repaired within 24 hours	477

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

# 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



Local Enterprise Week Launch

Local authorities support almost **900 towns and neighbourhoods** through the **Tidy Towns programme**

Your Council  
working for **you**  
on climate action



Local Authority Climate Action Campaign

# IMAGES OF THE MONTH

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# FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

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*Try 1 Challenge Launch*



*New homes at Gandon Walk, Adamstown*

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Website [www.sdcc.ie](http://www.sdcc.ie)