

December 2019

# Chief Executive's Report





# 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

## Vacant Sites Register

The Vacant Sites Register is a register of sites in the County which the Council has identified as idle/ vacant and which may be suitable for housing development or regeneration. Sites on the Register may be liable to a Vacant Sites Levy, currently calculated at 7% of the market value of a site.

The Levy will next be applied early in 2020. This process is intended to discourage land hoarding and encourage the development of vacant sites. It is an ongoing process which involves site assessments and a statutory process before sites can be entered on the Register and subject to the Levy. There are currently 17 sites on SDCC's Register and 2 of these sites are owned by SDCC.

SDCC is currently reviewing sites on the Register before year end to identify where construction has commenced.

More details can be found here: <https://www.sdcc.ie/en/services/planning/vacant-sites/>.



## Wellington Lane Cycle Scheme

Well attended workshops generated lots of interesting ideas about how the Wellington Lane cycle scheme could be designed to deliver some meaningful improvements for local people. The next step will be for the team to progress the design work and to discuss progress with the local community in early 2020.

## Cycle Right

South Dublin County Council is supporting the delivery of Cycle Right.

Cycle Right is the National Standard for Cycle Training and provides practical cycle safety and skills training to promote competent and confident cyclists and its delivery has been supported by South Dublin County Council since 2017.

Cycle Right is delivered over three stages with participants gaining skills and knowledge on a phased basis which prepares the individual to cycle in increasingly complex road scenarios.

In 2019, South Dublin County Council supported 24 primary

schools, which equates to 1,481 pupils, with their Cycle Right training. In June 2019 South Dublin County Council also delivered an Adult Cycle Right initiative in partnership with Go-Ahead Ireland, Cycling Ireland and the Road Safety Authority.

This initiative aimed to raise awareness on decision making behaviour of cyclists and to highlight their vulnerability around HGVs.



### Cycle Right

The Council has supported Cycle Right since 2017.

## Built Heritage Scheme

The Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht is operating the 'Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS)' and the allocation for South Dublin County Council under the scheme for 2020 is €60,000.

The Council is inviting owners of Protected Structures and buildings within Architectural Conservation Areas to apply. Applications can be lodged for grants of between €2,500 up to a maximum of €15,000, with applicants required to provide a minimum of 50% of total costs. The deadline for submissions is 5pm 31 January 2020.



### Built Heritage Scheme



# HOUSING SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



## Maintenance Painting

The Council has recently signed a Multi-Party Framework Agreement with four contractors for the planned maintenance painting of Council residential properties. The proposed works programme will be completed over a two-year period and will include the refurbishment of communal areas and stairwells, external facades of buildings, painting of windows and doors, and older person dwellings. This programme will be delivered by the appointed contractors in conjunction with the Council's direct labour staff.

A number of multi-household developments in the County have been identified as requiring painting upgrades to specific communal areas and communal doors providing an uplift to the living environment for residents. The painting programme will also involve upgrades to more than 300 older persons' homes in the County to improve the appearance and living environment for residents.



## Carbon Monoxide Scheme

The Council is again running a scheme in 2019/2020 to provide Carbon Monoxide alarms free to residents in SDCC administrative area providing they meet certain criteria. The scheme is also available to residents who are under the age of 55 if they are living alone or deemed vulnerable for the purpose of this scheme. More details are available on [www.sdcc.ie](http://www.sdcc.ie).

## Disability Sports Expo

The Disability Sport Expo took place in Tallaght Leisure Centre on Thursday 28th November as part of National Accessibility Week.

As part of National Accessibility Week, the County's Sports Inclusion Disability Officer and South Dublin County Sports Partnership organised a Disability Sports Expo to highlight and to create awareness of the opportunities for participation in sport for all.

Events organised included Volleyball and Sitting Volleyball, Martial Arts and Wheelchair Basketball. In addition, Blind Football and Football For All sessions were organised by the Council's FAI Development Officers in conjunction with our Sports and Recreation Office.

Disability service users from Stewarts, St. Michaels House, Cheeverstown House and St. John of Gods attended the Disability Sports Expo together with students and staff from the Sports Studies course in TU Tallaght while staff from the three leisure centres at Tallaght, Clondalkin and Lucan also participated in the activities.

Also as part of National Accessibility Week, South Dublin County Sports Partnership supported Esker Celtic in hosting a Frame Football exhibition match on Saturday 23rd November. This event marked the second anniversary of the turning of the sod at the fully accessible astro pitch with local groups and schools invited along to encourage any frame users try out the facility.



## Disability Sports Expo

Frame Football was one of a number sporting events taking place.

## Women's Refuge Opens

Saoirse Women's Refuge have opened a new facility in Rathcoole in mid-December. This facility will accommodate up to 5 women and 15 children escaping domestic violence. The refuge was officially opened on Friday, 29th November by Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, Katherine Zappone, T.D.

The acquisition of the refuge building is funded under the Capital Assistance Scheme by the Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government while the Council funded significant refurbishment works to bring the facility up to standard.



*The opening of the new Saoirse Women's Refuge. Photo credit to The Echo.*





# ECONOMIC ENTERPRISE AND TOURISM DEVELOPMENT

## South Dublin Libraries

South Dublin Libraries' website has been reworked to give it a fresher, more user friendly look!

The new space includes a searchable event section, and lots more sections, including:

- Find Your Library
- Catalogue Search
- Library Resources
- Ask the Librarian
- Newsletters
- Local Studies
- Social Media Accounts
- Collections
- Library Services and
- Your Libraries Account

You can also join the library through an online registration system.

The Council will be taking part in a wider local authority advertising campaign in January 2020 to highlight all of the wonderful services and events libraries provide the public. Please look out for this campaign and help us to spread the word!



## Local Enterprise Office

The Local Enterprise Office have a number of training events running throughout December and January, including Digital Marketing, website development and a networking event for enterprising women. You can find out more at [www.localenterprise.ie/southdublin](http://www.localenterprise.ie/southdublin).

## Tallaght Stadium

Building on the success of Tallaght Stadium, South Dublin County Council commissioned a feasibility report from Cooney Architects in 2018 that explored the option of developing a new North Stand in Tallaght Stadium and boosting capacity to 10,000.

The report also looked at developing improved press facilities and seating as well as additional corporate facilities on a new second floor to be developed in the existing Main Stand.

On Friday 22 November, the Council officially signed contracts with Cooney Architects for the design of the North Stand and the remodeling of the Main Stand.

This news follows the opening of the South Stand in March of this year and the recently announced plans to develop an advertising and marketing strategy.

In conjunction with these plans, South Dublin County Council intends to promote Tallaght Stadium as an events venue to include music, festivals and all aspects of community events. With stadium seating and temporary on-field seating, the venue will accommodate up to 20,000 people.



## Innovation Centre

The Council met with Oxford Innovation in November.

## Innovation Centre

An inception meeting was held in the Local Enterprise Office between Oxford Innovation and the Council on Tuesday 19 November about the Council's upcoming Enterprise Innovation Centre.

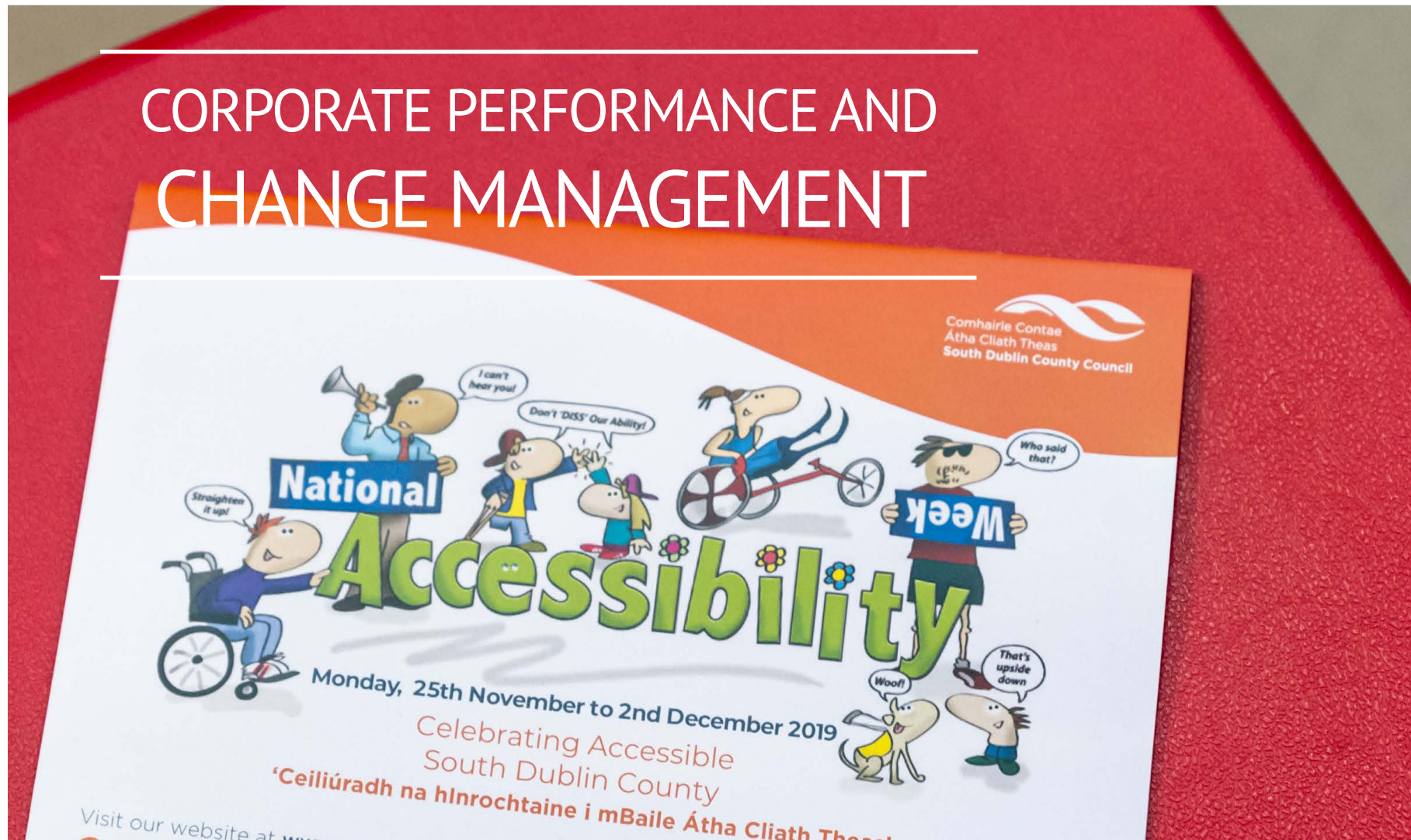
The new 4,000 m2 innovation centre will be located adjacent to the Council's head office in Tallaght and will provide flexible office space. The project is being supported through the government's Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF), as detailed in last month's edition of the Chief Executive's Report. It is key part of the Council's vision for the future Tallaght.



The North Stand, Tallaght Stadium contract signing



# CORPORATE PERFORMANCE AND CHANGE MANAGEMENT



## Cancer Awareness

As a follow on from the Health Screening Programme which was rolled out to all Council staff in May 2019 and as November was Mens Health Awareness Month, South Dublin County Council came together with the Marie Keating Foundation to provide three information sessions for staff while an information stand available in the County Hall foyer on Friday 29 November.

As part of October's Breast Cancer Awareness month, the Council and Marie Keating Foundation had successfully delivered information sessions to staff members affected by cancer or who has had a close relative or friend affected by cancer.

Money was also raised by the Irish Cancer Society at County Hall in October through selling Pink Ribbons in aid of raising funds for breast cancer research and support services.



## €300k Have Your Say

Voting closed for this year's version of €300k Have Your Say on Monday, 25 November. Record numbers voted on the initiative, held this year in the Firhouse - Bohernabreena electoral area. Results will be announced at an event in Firhouse Community Centre on Wednesday 11 December, beginning at 7.00 pm.

## SPC Scheme 2019 - 2024

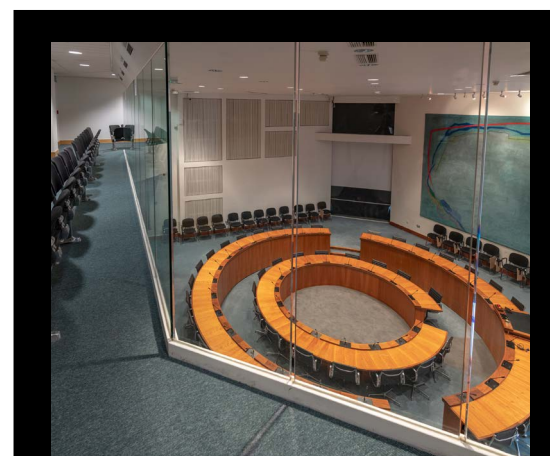
The South Dublin County Council Strategic Policy Committees (SPC) Scheme 2019 – 2024 was adopted by the Council at a recent meeting. Strategic Policy Committees provide Councillors with a framework and opportunity to fulfil to a far greater extent their role as overall policy makers for and within the local government system. It also develops opportunities for partnership with local and appropriate sectoral interests.

The Council is and remains the decision-making authority, and it is the task of the SPC's as committees of the Council, to advise the Council in the context of policy formation and development, and review of policy in relation to

functions of the relevant statutory framework. Background work, discussion and recommendations will be completed at SPC level before final consideration and ratification by the Council.

The following are the six Strategic Policy Committees established in South Dublin County Council:-

- Economic Development, Enterprise and Tourism
- Land use Transportation and Planning
- Social, Community and Equality
- Environment, Public Realm and Climate Change
- Housing
- Arts, Culture, Gaeilge, Heritage and Libraries



## SPC Scheme 2019 - 2024

The new scheme was adopted at a recent Council meeting.

## Christmas Opening Hours

South Dublin County Council residents should note the following arrangements over the Christmas period:

County Hall, Tallaght and Clondalkin Civic offices will close on 24 December at 12pm and will reopen on Thursday 2 January 2020 at 9.00am. This includes the Planning Counter and the Cash Office.

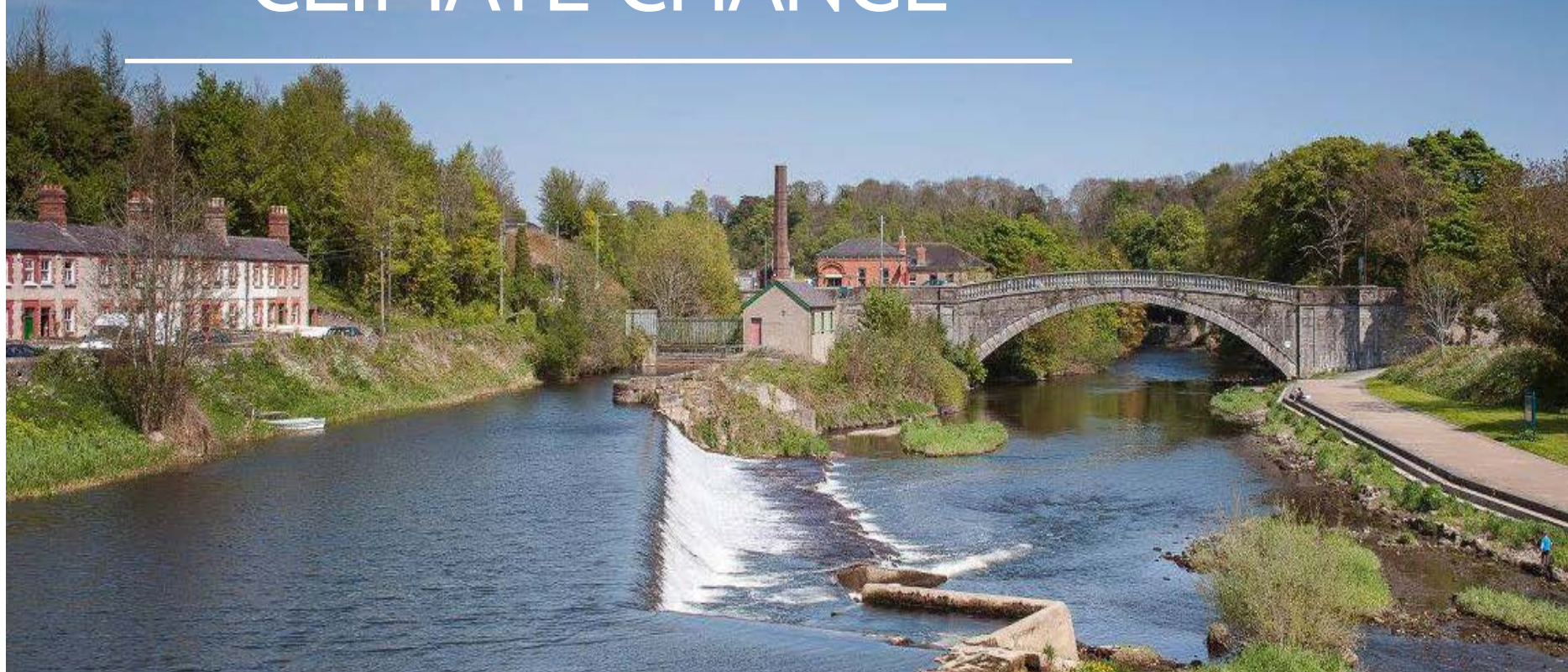
The Libraries will close on Saturday 22 December at 4.30pm and will reopen on Thursday 2 January 2020 at 9.45am.



Christmas 2018 at the Clondalkin Civic Offices



# ENVIRONMENT WATER AND CLIMATE CHANGE



## Team Green Campaign

Deputy Mayor, Trevor Gilligan officially launched the SDCC Clubs Plastic Bottles/Cans Recycling scheme in conjunction with Repak's Team Green Campaign. The scheme encourages and promotes environmental awareness around the recycling of plastic bottles, cans and how to recycle the right way. If everyone in Ireland recycled just one more piece of plastic every week, we could recycle 250 million more pieces of plastic every year!

Four local sports clubs were selected to participate in the pilot scheme, to collect recyclables from clubs and pitch side locations. Each club is provided with litter pickers, Repak and SDCC logo bags, coloured cable ties and metal bin frames.

For every full bag collected, the club will receive €5. This is a fantastic opportunity for clubs, members and families to get involved in highlighting the importance of recycling, reducing litter, and helping Ireland hit its environmental targets.



## 2GoCup

South Dublin County Council has joined the 2GoCup Deposit and Return Scheme in the coffee dock of County Hall, Tallaght. This is another step in tackling the issue of single-use products by revolutionising the way we order our drinks 2Go! Each 2GoCup lasts a minimum of 3 years if it is used every single day.

## All-Ireland Pollinator Plan

The Mayor of South Dublin County Council, Cllr Vikki Casserly signed the All Ireland Pollinator Plan in November whereby SDCC became a partner of the All Ireland Pollinator Plan. This formalises the Councils commitment to support pollinators in the county. Many of the actions already taken by the council are now placed in the context of a formal framework that allows the Council to add year on year to actions, monitor progress and work in partnership with other Councils and partners across the Country in a comprehensive suite of actions to support biodiversity in the county. Some of the actions carried out to date include:

- Modification of Grassland

management regimes to support pollinators; across the county.

- Implementation of signage to identify pollinator friendly habitats within SDCC parks and open spaces.
- Implementation of new pollinator friendly wildflower meadows; on the N81 landscape improvement scheme and within Tymon Park.
- Planting of a dense clover sward; planting in roadside verges as part of the upgrade of R120.
- Pilot project of pollinator friendly ornamental planting; at the entrance to the County Hall, Tallaght.



## Solar Powered Bins

New solar powered bins have been installed in Rathfarnham.

## Solar Powered Bins

The Council has taken another step in the right direction on litter management and climate action as Solar Powered Bins have been installed in the Rathfarnham area. By installing the solar-powered bins in place of regular litter bins, the number of on-street bins required could be reduced by up to 20%. Irish firm Kyron Street Ltd were awarded the contract to provide the smart bins, which have real-time wireless monitoring systems which tells the Council each bin's current capacity status, helping us schedule collections in a more efficient way.



The Deputy Mayor launched the Team Green Campaign



# LOCAL GOVERNMENT AWARDS



The Round Tower, Visitor Centre, Clondalkin - Brú Chrónáin was awarded the Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Award in the Supporting Tourism.

**T**he Round Tower, Clondalkin, took home the 'Supporting Tourism' award from the Chambers Ireland event in the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Santry on Thursday, 28 November.

The Round Tower, Clondalkin has become a key tourist destination in the region since opening its door on 3 July 2017. The hugely-successful visitor centre features an interpretative

centre, exhibition space, café, gardens, and terrace dining and is nestled in the heart of Clondalkin Village, within minutes of the Grand Canal Greenway, Corkagh Regional Park and nearby Irish Cultural Centre, Áras Chrónáin. It is also home to the Happy Pear in Dublin.

The Visitor Centre is the first to tell the story of that unique of Irish cultural features, the Round Tower.

## #ELGAwards2019

The Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards ceremony, sponsored by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government, is held to recognise and celebrate the outstanding work being carried out by Local Authorities all over Ireland.

Find out more by checking the #ELGAwards2019 hashtag on Twitter.



uitable for all ages, the interactive multimedia exhibition tells the story of over 1,000 years of Clondalkin's history and heritage. The exhibition delves into Clondalkin's medieval origins from the foundation of St Crónán Mo-Chua's monastery to revealing intriguing clues to the town's Viking past.

The restored Mill Cottages on the site of the 8th Century Round Tower are home to 8 rooms in which these stories unfold through sight, sound and stunning visuals. The opening of this exciting facility came after years of work between South Dublin County Council, the OPW and the local community and marks a significant investment by the Council into the economic, and tourism development in the county of South Dublin.

South Dublin County Council had five projects shortlisted in the following categories:

- Five Year PlaySpace Programme in Supporting Active Communities
- The Round Tower, Visitor Centre, Clondalkin - Brú Chrónáin in Supporting Tourism
- The South Dublin County Sustainable Business Programme in Promoting Economic Development
- Clonburris Strategic Development Zone Planning Scheme in Enhancing the Urban Environment
- Sensory Pig Sty in Tymon Park in Disability Services Provision



*The Happy Pear at The Round Tower*



# NATIONAL ACCESSIBILITY WEEK



Mayor Vicki Casserly officially opened National Accessibility Week 2019 in South Dublin at the TU Dublin Tallaght Campus on Monday 25 November.

South Dublin County Council, in partnership with organisations across the County, celebrated National Accessibility Week through a diverse programme of events, including accessible ice skating, assisted climbing, a seminar on Inclusive Playspaces and Irish Sign Language Interpreted tours of key South Dublin heritage sites.

Libraries across the County also par-

ticipating in a variety of ways including providing sensory friendly library times and reading books that have accessibility themes during children's story times.

National Accessibility Week took place from Monday, 25 November through to the 3rd of December.

National Accessibility Week (led by local authorities across the country),

## INCLUSIVE PLAYSACES

Universal Design is defined in the Disability Act 2005 as the design and composition of an environment so that it can be accessed, understood and used to the greatest extent possible by all people regardless of their age, size, ability or disability. An environment (or any building, product, or service in that environment) should be designed to meet the needs of all people who wish to use it.

As such, South Dublin County Council developed a playspace design programme with accessibility as a core aim.

Find out more by watching our Inclusive Playspaces video on the front page of [www.sdcc.ie](http://www.sdcc.ie).

is an important opportunity to encourage all people to focus on issues of accessibility and universal design.

The week provides Councils, businesses, schools and colleges, community groups and so on with a valuable opportunity to highlight the accessibility of their facilities and services.

Mayor Casserly said of the events taking place, "Universal access is essential for the continued growth and sustainability of vibrant communities. South Dublin County Council is strongly committed to equality, inclusion and providing facilities and services that are accessible to all."

Selina Bonnie, Disability Liaison, Access and Equality Officer, at South Dublin County Council added that

"Disabled people have a wide variety of accessibility requirements in order to be able to participate fully in our communities. Through our programme of events we will be providing examples of how these accessibility requirements can be met".

The week was a huge success, with the Inclusive Playspace Seminar showcasing how South Dublin County Council is leading the way in providing accessible play areas for all children and with events like Accessible Ice Skating in Tallaght Stadium proving to be hugely popular.



Launch of Accessibility Week in TU Dublin Tallaght



# ANNUAL BUDGET ADOPTED



Elected Members for South Dublin County Council have voted to adopt Budget 2020 which provides for approximately €256 million in expenditure on service provision, an increase of 5% on the 2019 budget.

**T**he Draft Budget for 2020 provides for a total expenditure of €255,755,400 and anticipates income of €118,807,400 from a range of services and sources including rents, fees, charges, loan repayments, grants and recoupments. The balance totalling €136,948,000 will be funded from a combination of commercial rates and local property tax.

Specific budgetary provisions are:

## Economic, Enterprise and Tourism Development

- The continuation of the €1,000,000 Business Support Fund
- The provision of €1,389,300 for tourism promotion including €750,000 for the Tourism Infrastructure Fund, including the Dublin Mountains and Rathfarnham projects

## Budget 2020

Each year the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government prescribes the period for the holding of the Statutory Budget Meetings of Local Authorities. The period for County Councils is generally the end of November until the middle of the following January. The budget must be adopted within 21 days of the first meeting.

The Annual Budget establishes the budgeted expenditure and income for the coming year. It identifies the amount each budget holder may spend and also the amount of income which must be achieved.

You can find more information on Budget 2020 on [www.sdcc.ie](http://www.sdcc.ie).

## Housing

- Pre-let repairs have been increased by €1,000,000 to €2,500,000
- The homeless budget is now at €3,800,000
- An additional €1,000,000 has been added to the Planned Maintenance Programme to fund the planned and approved acceleration of this programme.

## Recreation, Amenity and Community Development

- Architects for the design of the North Stand and West Stand enhancements to Tallaght Stadium have been appointed and a further €500,000 is provided in this regard

- New libraries in Clondalkin and Tymon will open in quarter one 2020 and the final site selection for the planned Rathcoole library will be completed with the planning of the associated housing scheme and primary school

## Climate Action

- A €300,000 Climate Action Innovation Fund has been provided for
- An additional allocation has been made to increase annual tree planting to 2,000 trees up from the current level of 1,700

## Service Delivery

- The fire service budget has been increased by €1,000,000



*Two new libraries will open in 2020*





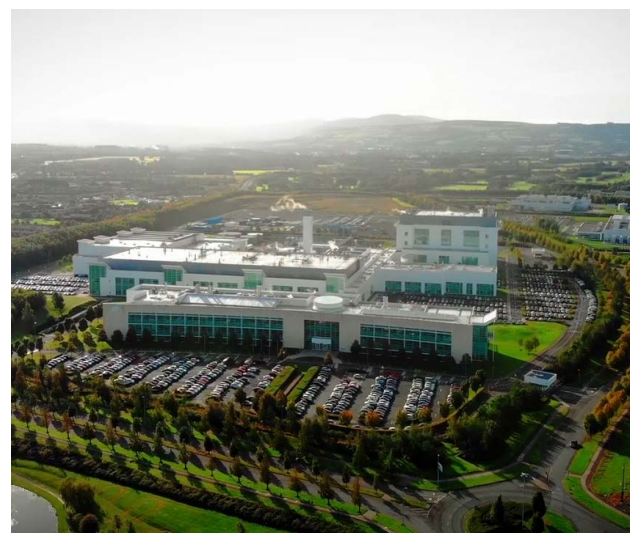
The 9 – 15 December has been declared Public Service Innovation Week. In this context, we examine the proven tradition of South Dublin County Council in service innovation and design.

Since its inception 25 years ago, this Council has had to be innovative in the formation of a new administrative area, including a new civic precinct in Tallaght Town centre. Mindful of its economic mandate, it established and has recently expanded Grange Castle Business Park, the largest wholly owned local authority business park in the country, incorporating 1,000 acres. We remain the only local authority to develop, manage and maintain a municipal stadium which we are about to extend to 10,000 seat capacity.

Ireland's first and foremost planning SDZ was established in Adamstown and the Council is about to embark on

its second SDZ at Clonburris. The successful modelling of Adamstown has seen its design principles integrated into the "National Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets", into which our staff had major input.

Technological innovation has been to the forefront of many initiatives including our "Council Meeting Administration System" (CMAS), which has been widely adopted by other Councils, the introduction of bar coding in our libraries and the development of the "Fix Your Street" customer interface, which is now operated by South Dublin County Council on behalf of all local authorities. At present a project team is



## PUBLIC SERVICE INNOVATION WEEK



working on the introduction of a fully Integrated Housing System that will allow for online service requests and traceability and real time analytics of tenants services.

The Local Government Chamber Awards have over many years given recognition to this Council's innovation across many areas, including libraries and customer service. The library service has always looked beyond the traditional book lending service with initiatives such as the "Ready 2 Read" early literacy programme, "Creative Campus" for second level students and its widely acclaimed "Red Line Book Festival". Our local relationship with the South Dublin Chamber through the Sustainable business has also received national recognition in the Chambers Ireland own awards.

In the areas of customer service, the housing "Choice Based Letting" system has been adopted nationally, while initiatives such as "300K Have Your Say" and "www.mydoorstep.ie" have received national awards and recognition.

Current live projects such as the Dublin Mountain Visitor Centre, Tallaght District Heating, Kilcarbery mixed tenure housing development, Tallaght Innovation Centre and our PlaySpace and Teenspace Programme are all innovative in their own way.

Looking forward the innovation challenge is even greater as we seek to accommodate a 50% increase in our population. Challenges centred on regeneration, mobility, climate action, housing and community integration will dominate the agenda for the next 25 years and no doubt will prove equally rewarding to all involved in seeking and implementing solutions.



# OCTOBER STATISTICS REPORT

## HIGHLIGHTS



### Corporate Performance and Change Management

Customer Care Queries processed	8371
Telephone calls answered	14305
Web pages opened on Council websites	255667
Social Media Followers across Council platforms	34889



### Economic, Enterprise and Tourism Development

LEO - Number of mentoring sessions	72
Grange Castle jobs sustained	5328
Library visitors	112,571
Visitors to the Civic Theatre and Rua Red	31,382



### Environment, Water and Climate Change

Trees pruned	355
Trees inspected	3152
Grass cut	936 hectares
Playing pitches provided/maintained	163
Tonnes of waste collected - litter and illegal dumping	506
Tonnes of waste collected from street bins	33
No. of bring banks provided	74
No. of green flag schools	136



### Housing, Social and Community Development

Total Housing Stock	9520
Total housing needs assessed	6904
Housing maintenance requests received	1662
Tidy Towns Groups supported	11
Community grants issued	11
Number of sports programmes participants	1602
Visitors to leisure facilities	53484



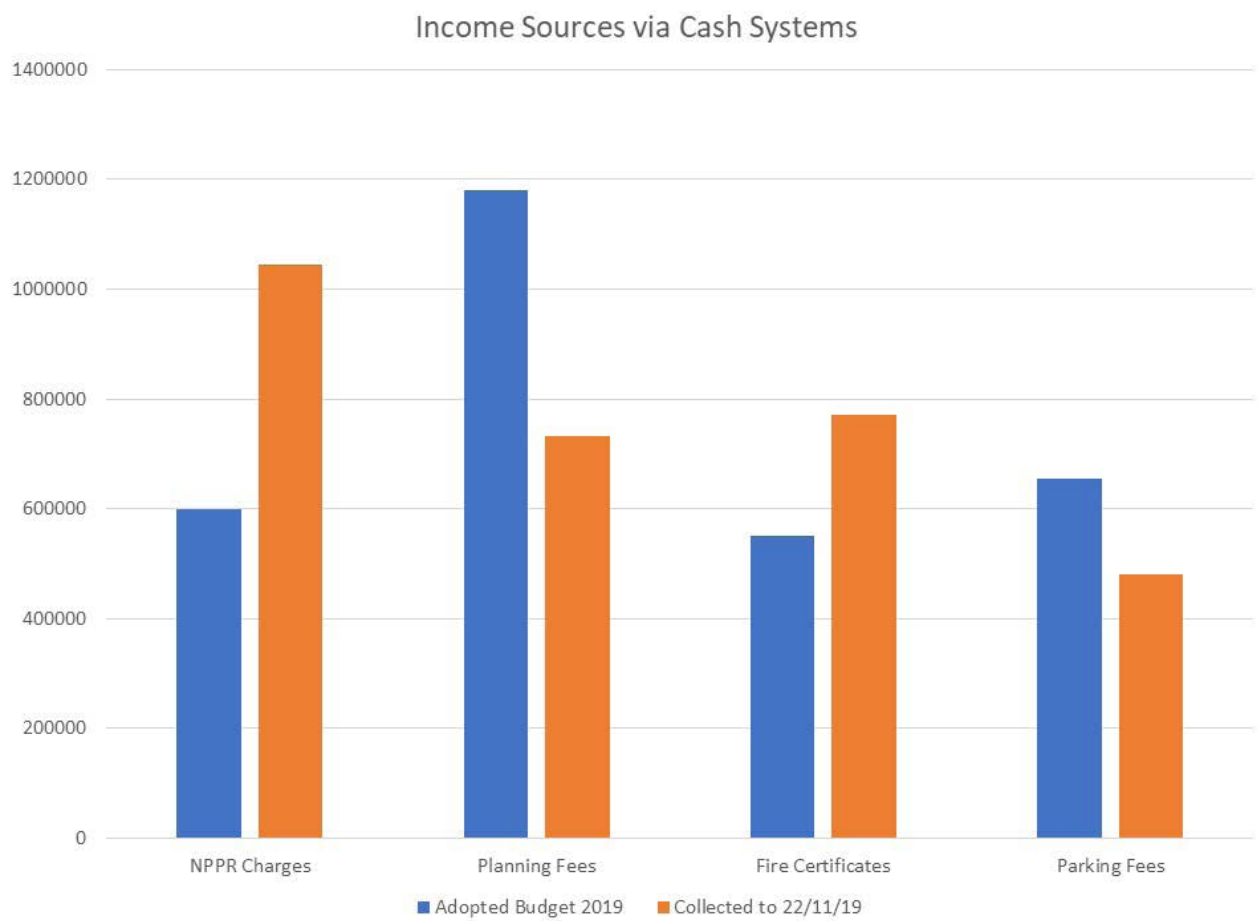
### Land Use, Planning and Transportation

Building control inspections	31
Area of footpath repaired in metres squared (m2)	8442
Area of road repaired in m2	7605
Number of public lights in charge	29950
Number of traffic lights repaired within 24 hours	452

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



Sensory Fun at IMC Tallaght



The Mayor at the Knockmitten Tea Dance



# IMAGES OF THE MONTH

# FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



*Signing the All Ireland Pollinator Plan*



*The Social Inclusion Festival celebration in the Civic Theatre*

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