

Annual Report 2023

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Mayor's Foreword

It has been a signal honour to serve as first citizen of South Dublin during what has been a very eventful and exciting year. Above all, it has been my privilege to meet so many of the amazing community volunteers and activists who are the lifeblood of our County and to celebrate the pivotal role that they play in ensuring that South Dublin is a safe, welcoming and inclusive place to call home.

I didn't come to politics via the conventional route but through civic society campaigns and I have seen firsthand, the power of people to change society for the better from the ground up. In my term as Mayor, I have endeavoured to keep in touch with the grass roots and to support and work alongside those within our communities who dedicate themselves to making our County better and I have done my best to foster more engagement and better communication between the local authority and the people it serves.

Community is the beating heart of local government and when I was elected Mayor, I placed community at the centre of my programme for the year. The first of the three priorities I identified was to advocate for a united front to combat prejudice and discrimination and to celebrate our diversity as a County, and this has never been more important than at the present time, when we grapple with a rising tide of hatred and misinformation. I have been working closely alongside new arrivals to our County, seeing at first hand their incredible contribution to our civic life and to our local economy. As we head towards the election season, it is my hope as first citizen to bring together people from across the political spectrum to take a stand against racism and all forms of discrimination and against the misinformation that stokes it.

It has been my privilege as Mayor to visit all of our Community Centres and to meet so many of the wonderful staff, volunteers and community activists whose work brings real, tangible benefits to local communities every single day. A highlight of the year has been the rolling out of health fairs throughout our Community Centres and the launch of a wide variety of health-based initiatives which have demonstrated the integral role which Community Centres can and should play in terms of the health and happiness of the people of this County.

An essential part of community development is communication and I'm extremely proud of the great steps that have been taken in the past year to showcase and bring to the attention of people the amazing work done by agencies within the County. The highlight by far was the Community Services Family Day which was a triumph and, I hope, the first of many – giving people a chance to better understand the services that exist and to meet and network with the agencies that work so hard on all our behalf.

Communication has also been at the heart of the Climate Action Plan which we recently passed and huge credit must go to Director Teresa Walsh and her excellent staff for the extent to which they have

engaged with the public in formulating our response to the climate emergency. It has, I feel, been a model for how public consultation should be done.

Sport is an essential part of community, and this past year has been a very proud one for the County in terms of its sporting achievements, particularly in terms of women athletes. It's been my great honour to celebrate many of our outstanding local athletes and it's fitting that this year has seen the launch of Active South Dublin and the completion of the Fourth Stand at Tallaght Stadium, both of which reflect a commitment to ensure that our sportspeople have access to the very best facilities to enable them to continue doing us proud locally, nationally and internationally.

This has also been a very exciting year for local businesses and the completion of the Innovation Centre is an outstanding achievement which will build on the fantastic successes of LEO as well as heralding the revitalisation of the civic quarter. I want to express my thanks and admiration to LEO, to the Economic Development Enterprise and Tourism Department and to the South Dublin Chamber for their sterling work this year supporting local entrepreneurs, start-ups, and established businesses.

This year has also seen great strides forward in terms of ensuring that the County is accessible to all. An important milestone in terms of our Age Friendly Strategy was the launch of the first age-friendly homes in the County. Our Libraries continue to innovate and have been rightly praised for their superb work in terms of sensory equipment and spaces and their continued leadership in terms of promoting diversity and inclusion throughout our County.

A high point of my term was the recognition of our sensory friendly playspaces at the Access Cities Awards in Brussels. In this regard, I want to pay tribute to our late Disability Liaison and Equality Officer, Selina Bonnie. The fruits of her trojan work over the years can be seen all over South Dublin and it is my hope that her example will motivate us to continue to strive to be the best we can in terms of ensuring that our County is fully accessible to everyone.

I want to extend my thanks to the Chief Executive, Colm Ward for his outstanding leadership this year and to all the staff of South Dublin County Council for the teamwork which has been so much in evidence this past year. I want to also thank Deputy Mayor Yvonne Collins for her friendship and support throughout the year.

Annual Report 2023 – Chief Executive Foreword

While 2023 was a year of both transition and challenge for the Council, it was also notable for continued progress in many areas towards our vision of making South Dublin County a vibrant and inclusive place for the people who live, visit, work and do business here.

Housing delivery remained a key priority, with over 1,000 new social and affordable homes provided across a range of delivery streams, as we achieved 92% of our new social housing targets. Output from our joint-venture project at Kilcarbery continued, while various infill developments were progressed and completed, including age friendly homes to support rightsizing and more effective use of existing properties. Our re-let activities improved significantly with 208 homes re-allocated at reduced turnaround times, while 33 vacant homes refurbishment grants approved under the new Croí Cónaithe Towns Fund, which helped to address vacancy and facilitate home ownership. Future housing plans also advanced, with commencement of various phases of Council and private sites in Clonburris SDZ, supported by infrastructure subsidised through URDF. Several sites, which will provide up to 385 homes, were identified for the temporary planning exemption for social and affordable housing. The start of construction on our cost rental development at Belgard in March; the first such local authority funded scheme, was also a landmark for the Council and the sector. Although 246 households exited homelessness through allocations and Housing Assistance Payment support and we committed to acquiring over 120 households' rented properties under the tenant-in situ scheme, homelessness continues to impact many, and a new family hub opened in Clondalkin in March to provide local households with temporary, supported accommodation close to their established supports and services. The impact of new arrivals has added to accommodation challenges, and we have continued to lead the community response and integration forum, working with a range of statutory, community and voluntary agencies to co-ordinate integration supports and connections to public services.

Following public engagement and formal consultation, our new Climate Action Plan was finalised for consideration by our Elected Members. It builds on actions identified under the previous plan which saw commencement of the Tallaght District Heating Scheme, with connections to County Hall and TUD buildings, the selection of Clondalkin as a Decarbonising Zone, a new €1 million Community Climate Action Fund launched, and an Energy Officer appointed during 2023. 163 social homes were upgraded under the national Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme while 2,012 existing public lights were switched to LED and 20 new public drinking water fountains were installed. Our Major Emergency Management Plan was extended to include sub-plans for emergency flood events and severe weather, and works continued on major flood alleviation schemes, with the Whitechurch Scheme under construction and design work progressing for both the Poddle and Camac Schemes. We significantly advanced our active travel and Cycle South Dublin programme, supported with investment of €22.3 million from the National Transport Authority (NTA) and additional funding from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. 15km of cycling routes and 7km of new walking links were completed, including the Grange

Road, Dodder Valley Greenway Phase 4, Templeville and Griffeen Road active travel schemes, while design work was ongoing for a further 85km of new and improved routes. 2023 also saw “school street” works started in Springfield, Old Bawn, Clondalkin and Palmerstown. We engaged with the NTA and Irish Rail on new Bus Connects routes and the DART+ Southwest Scheme, as well as assisting Irish Rail on their upgrade of Kishogue rail station. We began implementation of our new Road Safety Action Plan and the Celbridge Link Road in Adamstown opened in June while works continued on the Southern Link Street in Clonburris SDZ, both with funding support from DHLGH. Design and procurement for the Airton Road extension in Cookstown also progressed to allow works to commence early in 2024.

The “Year One” monitoring report for the new County Development Plan was being prepared at year end and a variation process was initiated for City Edge. Informal public consultation was held for the Clondalkin Local Area Plan receiving over 700 submissions. The Residential Zoned Land Tax mapping and consultation was also completed, and work commenced on a comprehensive review of employment land and future needs across the County. Our economic development and job creation focus included expansion plans for Grange Castle Business Park, presented to the Elected members in June outlining the potential for up to 12,000 new jobs. This was followed by approval for a Section 183 disposal for an 85-acre site for a major pharmaceutical facility in Grange Castle, while the proposed media park development there moved towards the planning application stage and significant additional development works were undertaken by many of our clients within the business park. The 12th Lock Masterplan for an exciting new economic, cultural, and social quarter was presented to Council in February and the Work IQ Innovation Centre in Tallaght was completed with 3,000 m² of new space for entrepreneurs and start-ups is set to officially open in 2024. Our LEO team also continued to provide a range of targeted programmes as well as awarding 93 Trading Online Vouchers. The LEO Evaluation and Approvals Committee approved 27 projects and 47 immediate new full-time job while Local Enterprise Week in March featured many successful events including our Local Enterprise Awards.

A new five-year Tourism Strategy for the County was adopted in December outlining our future strategic tourism development priorities. Partners were selected for the Rathfarnham Castle Courtyard and Stables project, consultants progressed detailed design for the Dublin Mountains Visitor Centre and the Tallaght Heritage Centre secured Part 8 planning approval in October. There were over 100,000 visitors to Brú Chrónáin - Round Tower Visitor Centre with a new Design and Craft Shop opening there in December and we committed to the purchase of Lucan House. We also supported various events and festivals and hosted both the Tymon Park Outdoor Food and Craft Market which saw over 20,000 visitors and the Rathfarnham Castle Christmas Market which had over 3,000 attendees. Various area improvement schemes continued, with the Castletymon District Centre enhancement scheme substantially complete, Part 8 planning permission secured for Rosemount District Centre, public consultation was launched for enhancement of Bawnogue District Centre and design work ongoing for Dodsboro District Centre. The major public realm works around County Hall in Tallaght neared

completion and procurement for Lucan Village enhancement is well underway. These improvements to towns, villages and district centres and select public realm areas will be complemented by implementation of the new Litter Management Plan, adopted in October.

Wider geopolitical events, along with more local issues including contractor availability and labour supply, have continued to impact on construction timelines and costs as we sought to expand our capital programme. However, despite these challenges, many new recreational and community infrastructure projects were delivered including the upgrade and expansion of Tallaght Stadium, Sean Walsh 3G artificial pitch, (both with funding under URDF), the new Airlie Park (supported by LIHAF), with its 3G artificial pitch, changing pavilion, café and many other facilities, and refurbishment of Rathcoole Courthouse (with support from the Town and Village Renewal Fund). We also completed various playspaces, teenspaces, tennis and basketball courts, a BMX pump track and athletics track and several projects under the Department of Rural and Community Development Community Recognition Fund in areas impacted by new arrivals. Construction started for the Templeogue Intergenerational Centre in Tymon Park while works continued on Lucan Swimming Pool, Saggart Schoolhouse Community Centre, and the Clondalkin Age Friendly Centre. We announced plans for a new library in Citywest, major park upgrades started in Corkagh Park, Killinarden Park and Whitestown Stream, and Part 8 planning approval was granted for improvement works at Jobstown Park, Quarryvale Park and Carrigmore Park. Progress also continued on our Pollinator Action Plan with the expansion to 167 hectares of annual meadow and short flowering meadow areas. Along with this investment in community and recreational infrastructure, we introduced significant capacity building and other supports for community centre boards of management, and over €1.2million in community and sports grants were approved as part of our community development restructuring. Our Active South Dublin Sports and Physical Activity Plan launched in November was the first such strategy in the local government sector and our Healthy Ireland and Sláintecare staff implemented a range of initiatives to address health inequalities, energy poverty and community safety. Our new Library Development Plan, “Our Library, Our Future”, was launched in Tallaght Library with almost 2,000 people attending a Family Fun Day. 384,965 visits were made to arts centres and venues in the County and the Red Line Book Festival in October hosted 42 events attended by 2,934 people. Our South Dublin Live Programme was attended by 21,540 people. Culture Night in the Cultural Quarter, the Ruaille Buaille Lucan Childrens Music Festival, Cruinniú na nÓg, and Music Generation were among our very successful events and programmes.

While I have referenced some highlights above, there is much more detail throughout this report and many of our initiatives received well-deserved recognition with various awards as outlined in Council Awards 2023 on page 23. This is testament to the commitment, ability and innovation of our staff who deliver a huge range of services and projects at very high standards even despite well-documented recruitment and turnover issues. We hired 139 new staff in 2023, saw 86 existing staff promoted, and explored additional recruitment initiatives including the WAM Graduate Programme, other graduate partnerships with universities and a General Operative Traineeship programme. Many staff engagement,

support and wellbeing initiatives were arranged including nearly 400 staff training and development programmes and a new employee induction programme. We also published our 2023 Gender Pay Gap Report and continued our Innovation Strategy actions, including the annual staff innovation awards, while the Staff Information and Consultation Forum, which had six meetings, promoted employee engagement and good change management practices. Our debt management improvements resulted in an extra €9.5 million collected in commercial rates bringing the total collected to over €141 million while housing differential rents collection also increased by more than 10% to over €31.3 million.

We continue to meaningfully involve citizens and communities in our activities, expanding online services with ePlanning going live, enhancements to our supplier registration, public consultation and housing online portals. Our new Housing Customer Centre opened in July, with over 12,000 Housing Online users now registered while our community centre online booking system was successfully introduced in 23 centres, helping 37,000 people make use of community facilities. We also expanded our open data, including publication of noise mapping for the County and our performance monitoring dashboard was improved and enhanced in conjunction with the Elected Members. The €300k Have Your Say initiative for Tallaght South and Saggart saw nearly 10,000 votes deciding the ten winning projects in June while our participation in #YourCouncilDay in June and the Public Services Fun Day at the Square in July highlighted the range and diversity of our work.

The continued progress across many areas of importance for our citizens during 2023 reflects the dedication and positive engagement by our Elected Members whose ongoing support is greatly appreciated.

About the Council

South Dublin County Council, now in its 30th year, came into existence on Saturday, 1 January 1994 and operates in an area of 222.74 square kilometres. It is bounded by Dublin city to the northeast, the Dublin Mountains and County Wicklow to the south, the River Liffey to the north separating it from Fingal and County Kildare to the west.

The County now has a population of 301,075 people living in 106,074 homes according to the 2022 census results, representing an 8% population increase from the previous census in 2016.

The Council is made up of 40 Elected Members spread across seven electoral areas with the Mayor elected by the members annually. Along with the Corporate Policy Group, six Strategic Policy Committees develop and recommend policy to the Council. Committees are made up of Elected Members and representatives of the business, farming, environment, community and trade union sectors.

Our Principal Services

We have five service areas as follows:

Economic, Enterprise and Tourism Development

- Economic development and promotion of the county for investment
- Enterprise development and supports
- Asset management
- Library services, the arts office and cultural infrastructure
- County promotion and tourism development

Land Use, Planning and Transportation

- Development management
- Forward Planning
- Roads construction and maintenance
- Traffic management
- Public lighting
- Building control
- Heritage and conservation promotion

Housing, Social and Community Development

- Social housing programme
- Housing allocations, maintenance and refurbishment
- Social services, estate management and community development
- Age-friendly and social inclusion initiatives
- Sports programmes and health and wellbeing initiatives

Environment, Water and Climate Change

- Climate change mitigation and adaptation
- Major emergency management
- Waste and enforcement
- Water and drainage services
- Veterinary services
- Public realm management and maintenance

Organisational Capacity and Accountability

- Corporate Services

- Human resource management
- Financial management
- Information and communication technologies
- Architectural services
- Legal services

Council Meetings 2023

There were 106 meetings of the full Council, Organisation, Procedure and Finance Committee, Corporate Policy Group (CPG) and Area Committees comprising:

- 11 County Council Meetings
- One Annual Meeting
- One Special Meeting of the County Council
- One Annual Budget Meeting
- Six Organisation, Procedure and Finance Committee Meetings (including 1 Special Budget Meeting)
- 11 Corporate Policy Group meetings
- The four Area Committees met:
 - 10 Rathfarnham/Templeogue/Firhouse-Bohernabreena meetings
 - 10 Clondalkin, Newcastle, Rathcoole, Saggart/Brittas meetings
 - 10 Lucan/Palmerstown/North Clondalkin meetings
 - 10 Tallaght Area Committee meetings

In addition, there were:

- 25 meetings across the six Strategic Policy Committees
- Four meeting of the Joint Policing Committee
- Four Audit Committee Meetings
- Two Oireachtas Members Meetings

Strategic Policy Committee Work

Arts, Culture, Gaeilge, Heritage and Libraries SPC

Council Members

- Gus O'Connell (Independent) - Chair
- Mick Duff (Independent)
- Kenneth Egan (Independent)
- Alan Hayes (Independent)
- Teresa Costello (Fianna Fáil)

- Mark Lynch (Green Party)

Sectoral Members

- Ms. Freda Manweiler - Public Participation Network (PPN)

Meeting Date	Detail
03/05/2023	
	Civic Theatre – Introducing Artistic Director Donal Shiels
	Arts Office – Cruinniú na nÓg programme 2023
	Our Library, Our Future – SDL Champions i. Equality Diversity & Inclusion ii. Innovation & Creativity
	Corporate Communications - Irish Language Act Update
	Action Items
	AOB
06/09/2023	
	Local, Economic and Community Draft Plan
	Rua Red Presentation
	Our Library, Our Future – SDL Champions i. Heritage & Placemaking ii. Outreach & Engagement
	Threading the Tower – re-imagining the Clondalkin Round Tower
	Update on Libraries Capital Developments
	Action Items
	A.O.B.
01/11/2023	
	Our Library, Our Future – SDL Champions: Literacy & The Irish Language
	Creative Ireland - Programme Update
	Libraries Capital Programme: Citywest Library
	Action Items
	AOB

Economic Development, Enterprise and Tourism SPC

Council Members

- Cathal King (Sinn Féin) – Chair
- Lynn McCrave (Fine Gael)
- Ronan McMahon (Independent)
- Leah Whelan (Solidarity)
- Ed O'Brien (Fianna Fáil)

- Louise Dunne (Sinn Féin)
- Liona O'Toole (Independent)
- Pamela Kearns (Labour)

Sectoral Members

- Jack McDonnell - TUD Tallaght
- Mickael Noonan - PPN
- Sherri Brennan - Business Chamber of Commerce

Date	Detail
08/02/2023	
	Local Enterprise Office – End of Year Review Shop Front Grant 2022 Winner
	Innovation Centre Update a. Buildings Update b. Work IQ Website proposals
	Grange Castle West Masterplan/Branding a. Website proposals
	Tallaght Stadium Progress Update
	A.O.B. a. LECP timelines update
10/05/2023	
	South Dublin Chamber – Presentation by Chamber followed by Q & A
	Heritage Centre -Progress update
	Innovation Centre -Progress and next Steps
	A.O.B a. Repatriation of the remains of Patrick Sarsfield
13/09/2023	
	Draft Local, Economic and Community Plan
	LECP - High Level Goals & Objectives
	Projects update a. Castle Courtyard & Stables, Rathfarnham b. Dublin Mountains Visitor Centre c. Innovation Centre d. 12 th Lock
	A.O.B.
08/11/2023	
	Local Economic & Community Plan Updated Socio-Economic data for South Dublin / High Level Goals and context for National & Regional Policy Next phase of Consultation process
	Local Enterprise Office Update
	Tourism Update
	A.O.B.

Environment, Public Realm and Climate Change SPC

Council Members

- David McManus (Fine Gael) - Chair
- Emma Murphy (Fianna Fáil)
- Dermot Richardson (Sinn Féin)
- Madeleine Johansson (Solidarity)
- Francis Timmons (Independent)
- Alan Edge (Independent)
- Vanessa Mulhall (Green Party)

Sectoral Members

- Una Ruddock - PPN
- Deirdre Mooney - Business Community
- Donnie Andersen - Agricultural and Farming

Date	Detail
07/02/2023	
	Environmental Noise Action Plan 2023-2027
	Climate Change Implementation & Action Plan
	Circular Economy & Environmental Awareness Activities
	SDCC Allotments Policy
	A.O.B.
02/05/2023	
	New Waste Management Action Plan for a Circular Economy/Regional Waste Management Office Report
	Community Recycling Strategy
	Local Authority EV Charging Strategy Update
	Climate Change Action Plan 2023-2029 progress update
	A.O.B.
05/09/2023	
	Local, Economic and Community Plan update
	Climate Change Action Plan 2024-2029 update
	Dublin Urban Rivers LIFE Project
	River Basin Management Plan 2022-2027 Implementation
	Waste Enforcement update
	A.O.B
06/11/2023	
	Flood Alleviation and Surface Water Schemes
	Review of Litter Management Plan (LMP) 2020-2022 & Draft Plan for 2023-2025
	Community Recycling Strategy
	Review of current Casual Trading Byelaws

	Review of 2023 SPC Programme and agreement of 2024 programme
	A.O.B.
13/12/2023	
	Draft Climate Action Plan 2024-2029
	A.O.B.

Housing SPC

Council Members

- Charlie O'Connor(Fianna Fáil) – Chair
- Laura Donaghy (Green Party)
- Kieran Mahon (Solidarity)
- Joanna Tuffy (Labour)
- Shane Moynihan (Fianna Fáil)
- William Carey (Sinn Féin)
- Brian Lawlor (Fine Gael)

Sectoral Members

- Betty Tyrrell-Collard - Trade Union
- Sharon Harty - PPN
- Gerry Stockil - PPN

Date	Detail
16/02/2023	
	Matters Arising
	2023 Housing SPC Work Programme
	Housing Delivery
	Allocations & Rightsizing
	Vacant Homes
	Next Phase of Affordable Purchase Housing – Kilcarbery
	Traveller Accommodation Pilot Choice Based Letting Initiative
	Strategic Housing Developments in South Dublin (pre-recorded)
	<p>Items for Noting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. AHB Communications Memorandum of Understanding b. Relets Update c. Progress Report on Planned Maintenance Programmes d. Rental Inspections (Final 2022 Report) e. Housing Grants (Final 2022 Report) f. Local Authority Home Loan (Final 2022 Report)

	<p>Items Requested by Members:</p> <p>a. G. Stockil: Fire Safety Matters</p> <p>b. Cllr William Carey</p>
30/05/2023	
	Matters Arising
	Housing Delivery
	Rightsizing
	Allocations Report (pre-recorded)
	Private Housing and Older Persons Grants
	<p>Items for noting</p> <p>(a) Vacant Homes Grant</p> <p>(b) Tenant in Situ Scheme</p> <p>(c) Affordable Housing- Kilcarbery Phase 2</p> <p>(d) Relets Update</p> <p>(e) Housing Disability Steering Group Minutes and Presentations</p> <p>(f) Incremental Tenant Purchase</p>
	<p>Items requested by members</p> <p>(a) Cllr Joanna Tuffy</p> <p>(b) G. Stockil - Items for discussion with Assistant Chief Fire Officer</p> <p>Response Times</p> <p>Dry Risers and Related matters</p> <p>Dublin Fire Brigade - Fire and Emergency Operations Plan Public Consultation - Dublin City Council - Citizen Space</p>
14/09/2023	
	Matters Arising
	Housing Delivery Report (Pre-recorded)
	Allocations Report
	Planned Maintenance/ERP
	<p>Reports for noting:</p> <p>(i) Tenant in Situ</p> <p>(ii) Affordable Housing</p> <p>(iii) Relets</p> <p>(iv) Housing Disability Steering Group</p> <p>(v) Caravan Loans</p> <p>(vi) URDF call 3</p> <p>(vii) New Housing Customer Centre</p>
	<p>Items requested by members:</p> <p>1) Cllr William Carey</p> <p>Question: That this meeting holds a discussion on the merits of admitting all those families currently living under RAS contracts to full access to CBL system and should bring forward a recommendation to full council meeting to initiate this action.</p>
22/11/2023	
	Matters Arising
	Housing Delivery Report-(Pre-recorded).

	Allocations Report
	Affordable Housing Update-(Pre-Recorded)
	Domestic, Sexual and Gender Based Violence Accommodation sub-group
	<p>Reports for noting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Planned Maintenance Update (ii) Student Rent a Room Scheme (iii) Traveller Count (iv) Housing Disability Steering Group (v) Private Rental Inspections
	Any Other Business

Social, Community and Equality SPC

Council Members

- Trevor Gilligan (Fianna Fáil) - Chair
- Paddy Holohan (Sinn Féin)
- Vicki Casserly (Fine Gael)
- Shirley O'Hara (Fine Gael)
- Lilian Guéret (Fianna Fáil)
- Justin Sinnott (Social Democrats)

Sectoral Members

- Lynn Byrne - PPN
- Daire Hennessy – PPN

Date	Detail
21/02/2023	
	Matters Arising
	2023 Work Programme
	Comhairle na nÓg 2023 Programme
	Local Sports Plan
	Community Grants 2023 including Community Recognition Fund
	Sláintecare Projects
	Age Friendly Older People's Council
	Equality Initiatives
	Local Economic & Community Plan
16/05/2023	
	Matters Arising
	Capital Projects update – pre recorded
	LECP progress update
	Healthy Ireland update
	Community Development Update

	Age Friendly Rightsizing FAQ
	Reports/Updates for noting: Comhairle na nÓg 2023 programme Active South Dublin – Local sport & physical activity Plan 2023-2027 Community Infrastructure Grants Community Public Services Day
19/09/2023	
	Matters Arising
	Capital Projects update
	LECP progress update
	Community Grants Report
	Community Services Day Report
	Integration update - Connect the Dots Research Report
	Sports Services Report
	Health and Wellbeing Project
21/11/2023	
	Matters Arising
	Community Recognition Fund update
	Community Centre Management Support Fund
	Community Centre Virtual Tour pilot project
	2023 Age Friendly Initiatives
	Reports for noting: Active Plan – link to final plan and distribution of hard copy to those in attendance LECP update Capital Project update

Land Use, Transportation and Planning SPC

Council Members

- Lyn Hagin Meade (Green Party) - Chair
- Paul Gogarty (Independent)
- Derren Ó Brádaigh (Sinn Féin)
- Baby Pereppadan (Fine Gael)
- Eoin Ó Broin (Independent)
- Yvonne Collins (Fianna Fáil)

Sectoral Members

- Eoin Ahern - PPN

Date	Detail
23/02/2023	
	Residential Zoned Land Tax
	Clondalkin Local Area Plan - early engagement
	Adamstown SDZ Amendment
	Bus Connects - planning application update
	Update on Planning and Development Bill 2023
25/05/2023	
	CySD - Year 2 Update
	City Edge - Variation of County Development Plan
	Heritage Plan Review
	Road Safety - School Warden Crossings Review
	Clondalkin Local Area Plan Update
05/10/2023	
	City Edge - Update
	Sustainable and Compact Settlements Draft Guidelines for Planning Authorities -
	Road Traffic and Roads Act 2023 - Update on the key relevant changes
	Government's draft EV Charging Strategy - Update
	Heritage Plan - Update
30/11/2023	
	Update on Implementation of Heritage Plan
	Update on Implementation of Biodiversity Action Plan
	Update on Clondalkin LAP
	Review of Development Contribution Scheme 2021-2025
	Office of the Planning Regulator (OPR) Programme of Review - SDCC
	City Edge Update

Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee

Date	Detail
09/02/2023	
	TAP Progress Report
	Annual Estimate of Traveller Families
	Caravan Loan Scheme
	Site and Waste Management Sub Group Report
	Fire Safety Report
04/04/2023	
	TAP Progress Report
	Old Castle Drive – ERRP Update
	Fire Safety Report
	Site and Waste Management Report
08/06/2023	
	TAP Progress Report
	Site and Waste Management Report
	Fire Safety Report
	Equality Action Plan in relation to Traveller Accommodation
07/09/2023	
	TAP Progress Report
	IHREC
	Fire Safety Report
	Site and Waste Management
	Caravan Loan Scheme
29/11/2023	
	Steam Project Traveller Children
	Minutes of previous meeting.
	TAP Programme Progress
	Annual Estimate of Traveller Families 2023 and Census Data 2022
	Fire Safety Report
	Site and Waste Management
	IHREC
	Any other business

Council Awards 2023

- The Dublin Urban Rivers LIFE (DURL) Project won an ESRI-Ireland Annual Standout Success award in the category of Data Management and Collection for its Domestic Misconnection Assessment IT Application.
- The Grange Castle West Access Road project won the Judges Silver Award in the Civil Engineering projects category at the Irish Construction Excellence Awards 2023.
- Tallaght District Heating won a Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Award under the Climate Change category. We were also shortlisted for:
 - Voices of Ukraine (Diversity & Inclusion) The Street;
 - Kick starting the Tallaght Innovation Quarter (Urban Revival),
 - Balgaddy Better Block Event (Festival of the Year),
 - Teenspace Programme (Health & Wellbeing), Dublin Mountains Community
 - Archaeology Initiative (Heritage & Built Environment),
 - Green Infrastructure Strategy 2022-2028 (Supporting Sustainable Communities),
 - Dublin Urban Rivers LIFE project (Sustainable Environment & Biodiversity),
 - Sightless Cinema Tallaght (Sustaining The Arts)
- SDCC Planning Team won under two categories at the Irish Planning Awards:
- - Workplace of the year
 - Research and innovation (for instantaneous data)

And were highly commended under the three categories of:

Plan making (for the development plan)
Urban regeneration (for Tallaght public realm)
Climate action and biodiversity (for green space factor)

- The South County Dublin Leisure Services (SCDLS) team won the Sports & Leisure Award at the South Dublin County Business Awards 2023.
- Tallaght District Heating Scheme won the Emerging District Energy Market Award in Brussels, Belgium
- South Dublin County Council received a Special Mention Award for our Accessible Playspaces at the European Union Access Cities Award .
- The Council have also been shortlisted in the “Advancing Disability Equality Award” in the National Diversity and Inclusivity Awards, which are due to be held in February 2024.
- Corkagh Park, Rathfarnham Castle Park, Sean Walsh Park, Tymon Park and Waterstown Park all won Green Flag Awards in 2023.

Annual Progress Report of the Corporate Plan 2020 – 2024

Progress on the Corporate Plan Indicators.

Economic, Enterprise and Tourism Development

Objective 1: Maintain a Supportive Business Environment

- The LEO South Dublin Evaluation and Approvals Committee approved 27 projects providing the direct creation of 47 new full-time positions with the potential for a total of 217 jobs over a three-year period.
- 93 Trading Online Vouchers were approved to help small businesses to develop or grow their online trading presence, exceeding our target of 55 set by Enterprise Ireland.
- A full LEO training programme was delivered comprising of 98 courses, which were attended by 1,442 participants.
- Under our targeted training programmes, 24 clients successfully completed the export focused leadership and strategy development programme; 21 projects were approved for consultancy support under the national Green4Micro Programme; 20 companies were approved for the LEAN programme, with five programmes fully completed and 15 ongoing; and 15 companies participated in the Digital Start programme with nine companies completed and six in progress.
- 20 Technical Assistance for Micro Exporter (TAME) grants were approved for businesses in sectors such as clothing and manufacturing, food, electronics, and medical technology.
- 669 mentoring assignments were made across all business sectors including finance, social media/marketing, and business management.
- 20 projects were approved for financial support through the Business Support Fund.
- LEO supported business networks continued to expand with NEWS (Network of Enterprising Women in South Dublin) membership increasing to 445 and SCENE (South Dublin Creative Economy Network) growing to 207 members. A full programme of events took place throughout 2023 for both networks. The Dublin regional event for the flagship National Women's Enterprise Day took place in the Maldron Hotel, Tallaght, attended by over 240 female entrepreneurs.
- Our Local Enterprise Week 2023 took place in March with LEO South Dublin hosting 16 events, including the South Dublin Local Enterprise Awards which saw High-Res Lighting winning the overall award. They went on to represent South Dublin in the National Enterprise Awards and won the Dublin Regional Award.
- Twelve of South Dublin's best up and coming craft and design businesses participated in the Showcase Ireland Creative Expo 2023, one of Ireland's largest international trade shows.
- The LEO South Dublin Student Enterprise Programme County Final was held in March in Technological University Dublin, Tallaght, with an estimated 620 students from 20 schools taking part in the annual programme.
- A food production feasibility study was completed demonstrating demand for food production space within the County, while five South Dublin food companies were among

18 companies that attended the Speciality and Fine Food Fair 2023, to assist their business in making the first steps into the export market.

- Construction of the new WorkIQ €16m Innovation Centre was completed. The 2,980 m² facility for entrepreneurs, start-ups, and SMEs will be home to up to 60 businesses set to officially open early in 2024.

Objective 2: Support and Increase Foreign Direct and Indigenous Investment in the county

- It was another significant year in terms of development taking place within Grange Castle Business Park, with ongoing construction activity by Amazon, Microsoft, Pfizer, Interxion, and Grange Backup Power Ltd.
- There was continued demand for sites within Grange Castle with a Section 183 disposal approved for an 85-acre site for Novo Nordisk, who subsequently lodged a planning application for a pharmaceutical facility which is due for decision in Q1 2024.
- The proposed media park development by Lens Media moved a step closer with a planning application prepared, which is due to be submitted in January 2024.
- The Grange Castle Masterplan was prepared providing for creation of up to 12,000 jobs with a phased programme to support its implementation. Detailed design for the second phase of the Grange Castle West Access Road was also completed, with construction due to commence in early 2024.
- The 12th Lock Masterplan was presented to Council providing for a mixed-use development to support the creation of a new and exciting economic, cultural, and social quarter.
- A planning application was also submitted by Mountpark for a new large-scale logistics facility which will be accessed via Grange Castle West.

Objective 3: Manage our Assets to Fully Support Economic Development

- The fourth stand at Tallaght Stadium was substantially completed providing a 10,000-seater stadium that we will now actively promote as a venue for music, festivals, tourism, community and other events.
- We were also delighted to host the Ireland Women's National Team for two packed international friendlies against Zambia (June 22nd) & France (July 6th) at Tallaght Stadium, before they headed off to take part in the FIFA Women's World Cup 2023 in Australia and New Zealand.
- We finalised agreement to acquire Lucan House and accompanying lands of 30 acres from the Italian government. This strategic investment in the history, heritage, and amenity value of the property, local area and the County, will be followed by the preparation of a masterplan for its future use when the sale is completed in 2024.

Objective 4: Maximise the contribution of Arts, Libraries, Heritage and the Irish Language to the Citizen and Visitor Cultural Experience

- 2023 was another successful year for our Libraries, with more than 60,000 members across the branch network, engaging in more than 1.3m transactions during 858,102 visits, while 7,443 events were also held, attracting over 123,000 people to our libraries.
- The 5-Year Library Development Plan "Our Library, Our Future" was launched, representing a strategic approach to address the challenges faced by the library service. The launch

event was a huge success, with almost 2,000 people attending a Family Fun Day in Tallaght Library.

- The Red Line Book Festival was held in October celebrating all things literary during 42 events attended by 2,934 people (up from 1,883 people attending 56 events in 2022).
- We continued work to expand the library network with a preferred site identified for the development of the Citywest Library following a tender process and Palmerstown Library starting permanent weekend opening from October. The proposed Adamstown Library was also advanced, with a planning application expected to be lodged in 2024.
- Following its launch in 2022, Think Big Space has also helped to reshape our library's team approach to community engagement in digital education, over 5,000 children have participated in this new service through workshops in Lego Robotics and Virtual Reality, while more than 200 teachers, 30 schools, and 1,500 students have availed of follow up visits to Tallaght Library.
- 384,965 visits were made to arts centres and venues in the County.
- The South Dublin Live Programme was attended by 21,540 people across the County in venues, parks, libraries, town and village centres, including Culture Night in the Cultural Quarter, which was attended by 700 people.
- Ruaille Buaille Lucan Childrens Music Festival hosted over 30 events for 0–13 year-olds, with workshops and concerts enjoyed by 5,220 children and their families.
- Through the Creative Ireland South Dublin Programme, we delivered Cruinniú na nÓg, the national day of children's creativity, with 2,752 children and young people participating.
- The Night Belongs to Us had a total attendance of 625 people with 105 performances by young people across 19 events in five venues.
- 29 artists received bursaries to develop and present their work and six Public Art commissions were awarded under In Context 5, our public art programme under the Per Cent for Art Scheme.
- Through Music Generation South Dublin, 1,828 children and young people participated in performance music education programmes in schools and community music hubs, while NOISE Music had a total attendance of 2,000 in DJ/beat-making and vocal workshops held in schools, libraries and youth centres, through the NOISE Music programme.

Objective 5: Implement a Tourism Strategy Focused on New Product and Brand Development

- A new Tourism Strategy for the County was adopted, outlining our strategic priorities for the development of tourism in South Dublin between 2024 and 2029, to build on the importance of tourism to the local economy, which currently supports 3,600 jobs having a combined direct and indirect annual economic impact of €342 million.
- Consultants were appointed for the Rathfarnham Stables masterplan and the McHugh Group were selected as partner for the retail/hospitality offering at Castle Courtyard and Stables at Rathfarnham.
- Consultants were appointed to work on the detailed design and development of the Dublin Mountains Visitor Centre with works on this flagship tourism initiative expected to commence in 2024.
- The Tallaght Heritage Centre secured Part 8 planning approval in October and a detailed interpretation design plan was also prepared for the centre, which we expect to commence construction on in 2024.

- 106,385 people visited the Round Tower Visitor Centre. The new Round Tower Design and Craft Shop developed in the retail area of the centre with the support of LEO South Dublin was launched in December.
- The Tourism Event and Festival Grant Scheme supported seven events during the year, including Dublin Masters Basketball, Waido 4 Nations Karate Championships and BrickCon, which attracted over 2,500 visitors to the County.
- Tymon Park Outdoor Food and Craft Market ran each Saturday from May to September, with up to 21,800 people visiting the market over the period, including over 4,000 people who attended the International Food and Cultural Event.
- Rathfarnham Castle Christmas Market returned to the County in December attracting over 3,000 visitors to see 40 food and craft traders, live entertainment, and festive decoration, promoting local artisan products, food, craft, and local businesses.
- The Rebellion/Rathfarnham Village Walking Trail launched in April at Pearse Museum, supporting the suite of walking trails in the County, including Tallaght and Clondalkin.
- Six grant applications were supported under our Shopfront Improvement Scheme.

Land Use, Planning and Transportation

Objective 1: Strategic Planning for Resilient Growth

- Following adoption of the County Development Plan 2022-2028, we monitored delivery of the plan and a monitoring report for 'year one' will be presented to Council in early 2024.
- The Residential Zoned Land Tax maps have been prepared, consulted on, and finalised.
- Work on a County-wide Employment Land Review has commenced and will include a comprehensive review of all employment land and future needs across the County.
- 854 planning applications were determined, 312 planning enforcement cases were closed and four housing estates and roads were taken in charge.
- As of Quarter 3 2023 planning permission was in place for 14,988 homes.
- Informal consultation was undertaken for a County Heritage Plan with a draft plan now being prepared for formal public consultation.
- The Office of the Planning Regulator, who has a statutory role in reviewing all Planning Authorities, commenced their South Dublin review.
- The Council soft-launched ePlanning, an on-line platform to enable applicants to submit planning applications on-line, which will be fully available to all applicants in early 2024.
- Our planning team won several awards at the Irish Planning Institutes Ceremony including Workplace of the Year.

Objective 2: Connect places through sustainable mobility projects

We made significant progress in delivering the Cycle South Dublin Programme with investment of €22.3 million of National Transport Authority (NTA) funding on the design and delivery of new active travel infrastructure across the County. This was further supplemented with additional funding from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, as we delivered 15km of

new and improved cycling routes and 7km of new walking links, while also progressing design work for a further 85km of new and improved walking and cycling routes.

- Works were completed on Grange Road, Dodder Valley Greenway Phase 4, Templeville and Griffeen Road active travel schemes.
- Works also started on site on Limekiln Road, Castletymon Road, D24 Phase 1, Rossmore Road, the Balgaddy permeability scheme and Tallaght Town Centre public realm projects.
- School street improvement works started at several schools including St. Marks in Springfield, Scoil Maelruain in Tallaght, Colaiste Chillian in Clondalkin, as well as St Lorcan's and St Brigid's in Palmerstown.
- Following Part 8 planning approval, a contractor has now been procured to deliver the Airton Road extension in Cookstown and works will commence on site in early 2024.
- We adopted a new Road Safety Action Plan and progressed its implementation.
- We worked closely with the NTA and Irish Rail on design and planning for new Bus Connects routes through the County and on the plans for the DART+ Southwest Scheme. These projects will see significant improvements in the level of public transport available across the County.
- The Council and Irish Rail worked together on the upgrade of the existing Kishogue rail station and surrounding environs at Clonburris with work commencing on site.
- A survey of all 170 road bridges across the County was completed and a contractor has now been appointed to progress upgrade works to an initial four bridges in the first half of 2024.
- Our Road Work Programme was fully delivered including 153 improvement works to roads and footpaths with 14 traffic calming projects and 17 new pedestrian crossings were delivered.
- 2,012 existing public lights were upgraded to LED and 4,790 public lights were repaired.

Objective 3: Through the built environment promote a sense of community in the different places of South Dublin

- The Castletymon District Centre enhancement scheme commenced on site and is now substantially complete with only final planting works remaining.
- Following Part 8 approval, the detailed design of the Lucan Village enhancement was completed, and contractor procurement is underway.
- Part 8 planning permission was secured for the Rosemount District Centre and work on the detailed design is progressing, while public consultation was launched on a Part 8 planning application for the Bawnogue District Centre enhancement project. Design work on the Dodsboro District Centre enhancement project is also progressing.
- The process for a variation to the County Development Plan was initiated for the City Edge area and a statutory public consultation will commence in the summer of 2024.
- An informal public consultation on the issues and options for the Clondalkin Local Area Plan was held and 700 submissions were received to inform the preparation of the draft Local Area Plan, with a further round of public consultation soon to commence.
- In Clonburris Strategic Development Zone, works continued on the Southern Link Street which has received Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage Final Business Case approval, and 2,931 homes have received planning permission, of which 957 are complete or under construction.

- In Adamstown Strategic Development Zone, capital projects at Tandy's Lane, Celbridge Link Road, Airlie Park, and Adamstown Plaza have all been completed with funding from DHLGH and the Council and a minor amendment to the SDZ Planning Scheme was submitted to An Bord Pleanála. 7,149 homes are permitted in Adamstown, of which 5,029 are complete or under construction.
- We continued to work proactively with Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council on development and promotion of the Dublin Mountain Heritage trail, including holding several walking tours, community talks and preparing promotional brochures.
- We facilitated €40,000 of spend via the Historic Structures Fund (DHLGH) to upgrade St. Lukes Church, Peamount Hospital, and a further €90,000 of Built Heritage Investment funding to support delivery of six heritage upgrade projects.

Housing, Social and Community Development

Objective 1: Deliver quality social and affordable housing to meet housing need across the county

Progress under our Housing Delivery Action Plan (HDAP) continues with delivery of in excess of 1,000 new social and affordable homes across all streams, including 650 new social homes substantially completed through the Council's own build programme, Part V, Approved Housing Bodies and turnkey opportunities, 418 properties provided through long-term leases (including targeted leasing initiative) and 54 new affordable purchase homes made available.

- In Clonburris, construction commenced on 116 social and affordable homes in the Canal Extension Site. A tender process for 266 homes within Kishogue has commenced and plans are also progressing to bring forward planning applications for 1,300 homes on Phases 3-5, including 120 homes under the Public Private Partnership bundle for which a Section 85 agreement with Dublin City Council was approved in February. In addition, 25 affordable homes were advertised for sale in November on a turnkey basis from a private developer.
- 103 social and 29 affordable homes were delivered under the Kilcarbery joint venture development with Phase 2 now substantially complete and Phase 3 commenced in October. Proposed development of 88 social and affordable homes on an adjacent site were advertised under the temporary Part 8 planning exemption in December.
- Construction commenced on the first standalone local authority cost rental scheme consisting of 133 apartments at Belgard Square North.
- Planning approval was granted for a mixed tenure development of 635 new private, social and affordable homes in the Killinarden Foothills joint venture project and we are working with our partners to move to site commencement.
- Following adoption of the County Development Plan, the planning team finalised an options report and identified a preferred layout for Council-owned lands at Rathcoole, with a masterplan being developed for a planning application for housing and sports facilities there.
- Work on existing Part 8 approved housing developments continued with new homes allocated, completed or progressing at St. Marks, Templeogue, Mayfield, Springfield, Old Bawn, New Nangor Road, Whitestown, Balgaddy, Homeville and a Traveller accommodation development in Fonhill. Approved developments at St. Aonghus' Green, St. Ronan's Crescent and Pearse Brothers Park also progressed towards site commencement.

- Ten proposed housing developments were identified to Councillors for the Section 179A temporary planning exemption for social and affordable housing with notices issued in December for sites in Rossfield, Deansrath and Kilcarbery

Objective 2: Provide optimal and innovative housing management, supports and regulations for better tenancies and estates

- We continued to manage and maintain our social housing stock of 9,835 and 480 leased properties and supported along with 4,362 Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) and 816 Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS) tenancies.
- We made 668 housing allocations including 172 to homeless households following 113,058 expressions of interest received through our Choice Based Letting system.
- Over 120 properties were purchased or progressed to sale agreed/conveyancing under the tenant-in situ acquisition scheme.
- 2,399 new applications for social housing support were received and 205 rightsizing applications from social housing tenants and private homeowners were also managed.
- We managed and supported 1,046 new household presentations to Homeless Services and a new family hub opened in Clondalkin in March.
- 1,619 private rented properties were subject to initial inspections.
- 436 private housing grants were approved, and 139 social housing adaptation works were completed.
- 122 applications were received for the Local Authority Home Loan scheme with €7.68 million provisionally approved to borrowers.
- We allocated 208 re-let properties at an average turnaround time of 26 weeks. 163 home upgrades were completed under the national Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme, with a further 235 homes upgraded under our Windows & Doors Programme.
- Our new Housing Customer Centre was opened, and 12,349 housing applicants and tenants are now registered with our Integrated Housing System. We managed affordable housing applications and also launched a private housing grants application facility on the system.
- 15,760 housing maintenance requests were received with 11,640 repairs completed.
- A county-wide vacant homes survey was undertaken to support our use of DHLGH funding to bring vacant homes back into use and 56 Vacant Homes Refurbishment Grant applications were received, with 33 approved.
- New estate management structures were introduced with 608 pre-tenancy meetings held, 105 tenancy warnings issued for anti-social behaviour, 21 abandonment notices served, and twelve tenancies terminated.

Objective 3: Lead inclusion, equality and interagency initiatives for integrated and socially connected communities

- Implementation of the Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme continued under the guidance of the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) who also oversaw a tender process for the new SICAP programme, which resulted in a contract for the new programme being signed in December.
- The Community Response Forum held 11 meetings during the year with a focus on interagency services for Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection and International Protection

Applicants. External consultants were engaged to undertake a needs analysis and research project for International Protection Applicants.

- €2.7 million funding was achieved under the Community Recognition Fund to deliver projects for communities impacted by new arrivals, with 19 projects identified.
- The newly reconstituted South Dublin Older People's Council held their inaugural meeting in January and initiatives progressed in conjunction with the County Age Friendly Alliance, including health and wellbeing events, age friendly parking and seating, communications boards in libraries, the 'Message in a Bottle' project and home safety and security projects.
- The Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee held five meetings, discussing delivery of the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024, an Equality Action Plan, the Caravan Loan Scheme, work under an estate/waste management subcommittee, fire safety, training for the Integrated Housing System, a STEAM project and delivery of a new playground in Owendoher Haven.
- The Public Services Fun Day took place in July in conjunction with The Square and An Garda Síochána to celebrate and highlight the work of essential services providers at a free family event.
- Our Scholarship Awards in conjunction with the Technological University of Dublin saw 16 students from local schools awarded €2,500 each towards their third-level expenses and €10,000 towards the sports bursary scheme.
- Comhairle na nÓg was nominated for a Community Spirit award for their Comhairle Makes NOISE event which was held in the Civic Theatre. The board held their AGM in October in the Maldron Hotel with representatives from secondary schools, alternative learning programmes and youth services.
- Joint Policing Committee and Local Policing Fora meetings were held throughout the year with four JPC Meetings (including the attendance of the Garda Commissioner in November), four JPC Steering Group Committee meetings, five JPC Drugs Subcommittee meetings, eight West Tallaght Community Safety Forum meetings, two Clondalkin Local Policing Forum Public meetings, 12 North Clondalkin Community Safety meetings, eight Dublin 12 Local Policing Forum meetings and inaugural local policing meetings in Rathcoole and Lucan. In addition, 13 Transport Forum meetings took place with attendance from Councillors, An Garda Síochána, Dublin Bus, Go Ahead, Luas, Elected Members and Council staff.

Objective 4: Lead a healthy, active and participative county

- The Local Community Development Committee met six times and also commenced the consultation process for a new Local Economic and Community Plan.
- 130 attendees attended governance workshops for community centre boards of management covering Introduction to Governance, Finances and HR. The €750,000 Community Centre Management Support Fund was launched in October with 32 applications received.
- 195 community and sports grants worth €415,000 were awarded along with 23 summer project grants of €75,500.
- The community centre online booking system was successfully introduced in 23 centres, helping 37,000 people make use of community facilities.
- Upgrade works were completed on Rathcoole Courthouse, while work progressed to deliver new and refurbished community facilities at Saggart School House, Orchard Lodge Age Friendly Centre, Balgaddy Community Centre and the Tymon Intergenerational Centre.

- Plans progressed for the Citywest Community Facility, and local engagement and design work was ongoing for upgrades to existing community facilities at Ballyroan and The Park Centre.
- Consultants were engaged to manage delivery of the Part 8 approved all-weather pitch at Belgard Community Centre and design work is progressing on the Whitechurch Sports Facility.
- Our new Sport and Physical Activity Plan 'Active South Dublin' was presented to Council in May and initiatives under the plan included a new Pool Pod in Clondalkin Leisure Centre, ongoing support for local amateur sports awards, the introduction of a Trishaw Route in Dodder Valley Park and the Box Up programme, as well as continuing various programmes for rowing, schools swimming and the Try One Challenge.
- Operators were appointed for the new Lucan Leisure Campus including the soon to be complete Lucan swimming pool.
- Our Healthy Ireland and Sláintecare teams continued work under a range of initiatives to address energy poverty, community safety (including the Community Safety Innovation Fund - Generation Connections Project in Mac Uilliam), health inequalities, gambling related harm awareness and period poverty. We also supported the Grow it Yourself Schools Programme, a Health and Wellbeing Programme held across the community centre network and community-based health screening.

Environment, Water, and Climate Change

Objective 1: Create a sustainable low carbon and climate resilient County

In the context of global challenges such as the ongoing energy crisis and climate-related disasters, the four key targets of our Climate Change Action Plan are more relevant than ever. We aim to improve our energy efficiency, reduce energy waste, and cut greenhouse gas emissions. Building resilience into our systems to protect against future climate change related events will ensure confidence and reliability of our services; and continuing to engage with our citizens and inform them on climate change will educate and empower our communities to act at a local level. As we complete the final year of our Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP) 2019-2024, all the 154 actions are either completed or are underway with selected highlights including:

- Improving our energy efficiency by 40% compared to the 2006-2008 baseline and reducing our greenhouse gas emissions by 31.5% compared to the 2016-2018 baseline.
- Commencement of Tallaght District Heating Scheme which will further reduce CO2 emissions by 1,500 tonnes in its first phase. This included the milestones of the transfer of County Hall and TUD Tallaght over to the scheme.
- Selection of Clondalkin as a Decarbonising Zone.
- Completion of a detailed appraisal for a solar PV project at Arthurstown Landfill.
- Development of an Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy identifying 14 sites with potential for public charging sites which are now at procurement stage and a Fleet Transition Strategy setting out our five and ten-year approach.
- Preparation of tenders for energy performance contracts for large Council-owned buildings (County Hall and Library, Civic Theatre, Clondalkin Civic Offices, Tallaght and Clondalkin Leisure Centres).
- Continued facilitation of public transport routes, in partnership with the NTA and others.

- Our Major Emergency Management Plan includes a sub plan for emergency flood events with a severe weather sub-plan in place for South Dublin, while a flood forecasting service within Met Éireann was established and rolled out to Local Authorities.
- Ongoing work on major flood alleviation schemes with the Whitechurch Flood Alleviation Scheme under construction and design and tender work progressing for the Poddle and Camac Flood Alleviation Schemes. Further flood and general maintenance projects were also undertaken across the County, including at Newcastle, Rathcoole and Saggart.
- Three integrated constructed wetlands were constructed as part of the Dublin Urban Rivers LIFE (DURL) Project.
- Support for the Green Schools Programme with 26 schools awarded additional green flags in May and LEO South Dublin supported 18 businesses under the Green for Business Programme.
- Continued roll-out of public drinking water fountains with 20 now installed and 14 at planning stage.
- Continued support for Sustainable Energy Communities working closely with the local SEC Mentor.
- Launch of the Community Climate Action Fund which will provide €1.07 million of funding for local community groups and organisations over an initial 18-month period.
- Statutory public consultation from September to November on a new Climate Action Plan with the draft plan prepared for consideration by Council in 2024.

Objective 2: Improve the visual appearance of our county in the interest of Economic and Social Development

- A New Litter Management Plan 2023–2025 was adopted in October.
- Under our Street Cleaning Programme 11,162 kms of roads were cleaned and 10,438 tonnes of waste were collected.
- The Public Realm Improvement Works Programme delivered 80 schemes and work continued on the public realm aesthetics improvements for approach roads.
- A new three-year tree maintenance programme for 2023–2025 was introduced under which 7,436 trees were inspected, 3,953 trees have been pruned, 696 trees and 218 stumps have been removed and 751 trees have been planted.
- Tidy Towns Programmes and PURE (Protecting Uplands and Rural Environments) project initiatives included Tidy Towns Information seminars and a Repair Cafe delivered with Clondalkin Tidy Towns. Ten Tidy Towns groups in South Dublin received support of €100,000 through 3 rounds of grant funding throughout the year.
- The Environmental Education Programme included 179 climate/environmental awareness sessions and the education programme delivered a range of schools' programmes such as Eco Week Composting for Schools, Relove Fashion and competitions.
- The Social Credits Scheme helped deliver 43 new clean-ups, 27 new minor landscaping projects and 21 new paint enhancement projects.
- Tidy Towns groups, residents' associations and other volunteers organised regular local clean-ups with an estimated 5,000 clean-ups occurring, while Halloween saw 350 bags of bulbs and 180 Civic Amenity passes issued.
- The Burial Grounds Programme provided for 600 new plots added to Bohernabreena and a new Columbarium Wall in Esker Cemetery is out to tender.

Objective 3: Support a Green Infrastructure Network across the county to provide shared space for amenity, recreation, biodiversity protection, flood management and adaptation to climate change

We progressed the delivery of the public realm capital programme through development of additional parks, recreational and sporting facilities, supporting our Active South Dublin plans, with 21 facilities/amenities completed and opened to the public including:

- New Airlie Park in Adamstown including a 3G all-weather pitch, changing pavilion, café, tennis courts, playspaces and a cricket pitch.
- 3G all-weather pitch and an upgrade to the playground in Sean Walsh Park.
- Playspaces at Old Bawn, Firhouse and Cherryfield and Teenspaces at Avonbeg (Multi Use Games Area), Bancroft Park (Activity and meeting space), Esker, Griffeen Park (Phase 2 activity and meeting space), Kingswood and Limekiln, a public participatory project at Old Bawn (toddler playspace) and Tymon Park Playspace (Additional accessible facilities and sensory play features).
- BMX pump track and athletics track at Mount Carmel Dodder Valley Park.
- Half-court MUGAs at Rathcoole Park, Sean Walsh Park and Clondalkin Park.
- New/upgraded tennis and basketball courts in Beechfield Park and Dodder Valley Park.
- Mac Uilliam exercise loop around large green with tree planting.

Major Park development works are under construction at Corkagh Park, Killinarden Park and Whitestown Stream, while projects at tender include Kiltipper Park Phase 2, Jobstown Park, Quarryvale Park, St Cuthbert's Park, cricket training area in Tymon Park, the Kiltalown Playground upgrade, and various upgrades to existing grass pitches.

- Progress continued on SDCC's Pollinator Action Plan with the area of annual meadow and short flowering meadow being expanded to 165 ha. An Anaerobic Digestion feasibility study is under way examining the treatment of grass cuttings and production of biogas from it.
- The Public Realm section is actively implementing the actions of the SDCC Biodiversity Action Plan in both rural and urban areas through the SDCC Pollinator Plan, Green Infrastructure Strategy, Mini Woodland Planting, and Tree Policy.
- Increasing the tree canopy cover in the County through the completion of the approved programme to plant 2,500 trees across the County in 2023/24. 12 Mini Woodlands included in 2024 Programme.
- In delivering green infrastructure through the Dublin Urban Rivers Life Project, Three ICWs are completed and showing water quality improvement. Results show a 90% reduction in E. coli, 80% reduction in ammonia and 70% reduction in phosphates.
- The Allotments Policy was approved at the April 2023 Council Meeting. 446 Allotments were provided, and 30 new allotments are being developed in Graydon Park in Newcastle.

Objective 4: Manage Regulatory, Licencing and Enforcement requirements, including Service Level Agreements

Progress was made on delivering proactive litter and waste enforcement services to attain high standards of cleanliness in the County.

- 11,000 inspections were carried out under the 2023 Annual RMCEI Plan.
- 1,157 Litter patrols and 2,270 non routine waste inspections were carried out, with 412 litter fines issued and 35 court appearances.

- 506 tonnes of waste was collected from street bins and 5,168 tonnes of waste of illegal dumping was also collected.
- 117 inspections were carried out on waste permitted sites.
- A new Code of Practice for the operation of CCTV / Use of Mobile Recording is being implemented.
- Anti-dumping Initiatives included a mattress amnesty which diverted 913 mattresses from the waste stream to be recycled and collection of over 6.5 tonne of hazardous household liquids.
- National enforcement priorities included household and commercial waste, Producer Responsibility Initiatives, End of life Vehicles and metals, Construction and Demolition Waste and Tackling Illegal Waste Operators.
- A new Glass Recycling contract was put in place.
- 167 Derelict Site investigations were carried out with a site at St. Mark's Green acquired and consent received from An Bord Pleanála for acquisition of four houses at St. Maelruans.
- In managing and monitoring compliance with Control of Horses and Control of Dogs legislation, 30 horses were seized, and 508 dogs entered the shelter.
- We continued to implement the Service Level Agreement (SLA) with the Food Safety Authority of Ireland.
- We delivered the annual service plan actions in water and wastewater services under the new SLA with Uisce Éireann, with 535 water network repairs carried out.
- The 2023 programme of measures for the River Basin Management Plan was successfully delivered.
- Progress was made on the actions of the Dublin Urban Rivers Life Project in 2023. With door-to-door assessments carried out in over 7,750 houses with misconnections found in 600 houses, accounting for 980 misconnected appliances. 84% of these have been corrected and the rest are in progress.
- The Dublin Noise Action Plan was implemented in collaboration with other local authorities and work progressed on Round 4 of the Noise Action Plan in 2023. We monitored air quality and implemented recommendations from the Dublin Region Air Quality Plan, with one exceedance of the PM10 results at Old Bawn and zero at Lucan.

Organisational Capacity and Accountability

Objective 1: Support the policy and leadership role of councillors in providing effective local government.

- 125 meetings of the Council, Corporate Policy Group, Area Committee, Strategic Policy Committee, and other Council committees were supported with a total of 1,357 Headed Item reports provided, and 1,742 Councillor Questions and Motions responded to.
- Support provided to the Mayor through the Mayor's Office with management of diary and protocols, and the delivery of specific Mayor's initiatives.
- Webcasting of full Council meetings continued with webcasting also introduced for Area Committee meetings in 2023.
- New Mayor Cllr. Alan Edge, and Deputy Mayor Cllr. Yvonne Collins were elected by the Council at the annual meeting in June.
- Five meetings of the South Dublin Women's Caucus were supported with events and training held across the year including International Women's Day Event and engagement with Women's Collective Ireland and See Her Elected.

- The Corporate Policy Group agreed the programmes of work for the Strategic Policy Committees and the strategy for the 2024 budget. The CPG also had an oversight role in the preparation of the Council agenda and the implementation of the Civic Honours and Flags protocols.

Objective 2: Deliver quality services that treat all service users with dignity, respect and equality

- Our Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty Framework was made available online as an Irish Sign Language (ISL) interpreted video and ISL interpreters are provided for internal and public meetings and events so that members of the Deaf community can participate.
- All Council documents are accessibility, equality and plain English proofed.
- “Your Vote Your Voice - an easy-to-read guide to voting” booklet was launched on International Women’s Day.
- The Council hosted a Centre for Excellence in Universal Design (CEUD) / National Disability Authority (NDA) consultation event to inform the new Universal Design Guidelines for Changing Places facilities that assist public bodies to implement new regulations in June.
- Make Way Day 2023 - “Hey, this blocks my way!” took place in September to make the public aware of the issues disabled people face in their local communities while National Accessibility Week 2023 took saw a diverse programme of events culminating on International Day of Disabled Persons on 3rd December. Our Accessible Playspaces achieved a Special Mention Award at the European Access City Award.
- Our 2023 Gender Pay Gap Report was published showing a negative Gender Pay Gap of - 9.92%, showing that the average earnings of all females in the Council are 9.92% higher than the average earnings of all males in the organisation.
- Delivery of the Customer and Digital Services Transformation Strategy through the delivery of ongoing digitisation projects. Key milestones in its delivery included the roll-out of the Housing Online service and the completion of the transfer of customer services and staff from Customer Services to Housing. The Housing Customer Centre refurbishment was completed, and the centre was officially opened in July. The customer service centres closed two weeks later, and refurbishment works in the Concourse commenced in September, for completion in early 2024.
- The changes in advertising requirements under the Official Languages Acts 2003 – 2021 were implemented in 2023 together with a new Irish complaints protocol developed and implemented with training provided to all relevant staff.

Objective 3: Foster a strong governance culture in the organisation.

- The Corporate Governance Framework was actively promoted, managed and monitored corporately including the Ethics Framework, the reporting of Political Donations for Councillors, Section 142 Register of Councillor Payments and Attendance and the Section 141 Register of Councillor Payments and Attendance to outside bodies, Protected Disclosures reporting, the Public Spending Code Quality Assurance Report and compliance with the requirements of the Lobbying Act, to ensure all council business is conducted in a transparent way. Legislative changes were reviewed, and measures implemented to ensure compliance.

- The Corporate Performance Reporting Framework also actively supports the values of accountability, transparency and value for money, including the Chief Executive's monthly report to Council and monthly performance indicators and digital dashboards, the 2022 Annual Report and the 2023 Service Delivery Plan. A graphic summary of the 2023 Service Delivery Plan was delivered to every household, business and school in the County through the Citizen's Newsletter in the summer.
- Preparation of the Local Government Performance Indicators for SDCC, for national publication and analysis by the National Audit and Oversight Committee for 2022.
- Four Meetings of the Audit Committee were held in 2023, supported by the Internal Audit unit and its programme of work.
- A new Local Representation Allowance claims system was introduced requiring significant changes in the processing of all claims and a new online tracker and training and support to all Councillors.
- Procurement changes saw the introduction of a new OGP eTenders System which required significant training and support for and from the Procurement unit to ensure all new notices are correctly uploaded and published.
- Implementation of the 2021 – 2023 Procurement plan including bi-monthly meetings of the Steering Group, ongoing maintenance of the contracts database and procurement pipeline, compliance checks and the provision of training, advice and information to staff.
- Data Protection and Information Governance continued to be a significant focus for 2023 with a new professionally qualified Data Protection Officer appointed to work with management in a significant programme of work to address the organisation's key risk areas and liaising with the Data Protection Commission when required.

Objective 4: Build public trust through the delivery of effective communications and citizen engagement.

- Changes required under the Electoral Reform Act 2022 together with the ongoing development of Voter.ie for the Dublin region, and a programme of work for its expansion into a national system, were all managed and implemented throughout the year.
- In collaboration with the three other Dublin local authorities, a highly successful citizen awareness raising campaign was delivered across various media channels. The Council also carried out registration drives at the Community Services Fun Day and in TU Dublin Tallaght, as well as advertising campaigns across local media.
- The €300k Have Your Say initiative for Tallaght South and Saggart saw 187 submissions with 22 projects shortlisted and nearly 10,000 votes deciding ten winning projects, which were announced at an event in Brookfield in June.
- The summer and winter editions of South Dublin County Today, the Council's newsletter, were published and the summer edition was delivered to every home, school and business across the County in June.
- #YourCouncilDay took place in June and our participation featured short videos to highlight the work of our committed and passionate Council Workers in a variety of roles.
- Ongoing communications and awareness raising campaigns were delivered across the year, for example Breast Cancer Awareness Month, Safe Fun at Halloween, Christmas Tree Lighting events and the Unwrapped Winter Festival of Lights.
- Ongoing development and maintenance of the Council websites and all consultations were managed through the Consultation portal.

Objective 5: Develop organisational capacity to actively support the delivery of the Corporate Plan objectives and the local government reform programme.

- Strategic workforce planning is embedded with the engagement of all management teams across the organisation. Workforce planning directly informs the development of the Council's People Strategy and the Learning and Development Strategy.
- Almost 400 staff training and development events and programmes were arranged including 293 training courses plus various mentoring and coaching programmes, conference attendance and the Scheme of Assistance for formal education courses. A new Induction Programme was launched in June to support better onboarding of new employees.
- Recruitment of 139 new staff and 86 promotions during 2023 through 58 competitions held, 1,430 applications processed, 61 interviews over 148 days and 736 candidates interviewed while the WAM Graduate Programme (Willing Able Mentoring) was supported in partnership with AHEAD.
- A General Operative Traineeship programme was developed in collaboration with the Educational Training Board initiative offering 18–23 year-olds a real pathway to a career and provides training and experience in various operational roles.
- Ongoing implementation of the Council's Innovation Strategy 2022 – 2024 including the production of a Newsletter, and the 5th annual Innovation Week and Staff Innovation Awards.
- We continue to develop our partnerships with the universities in the Dublin region, working with them to promote South Dublin County Council as an employer of choice and to support students in gaining practical and meaningful work experience through internship programmes across Business, Landscape Architecture, Planning and Communications disciplines, with students coming from TU Dublin and UCD.
- The Information and Consultation Forum promoted employee engagement and good change management practices. Six meetings were held in 2023 and topics discussed included digital transformation, workforce planning, depot reorganisation, Uisce Éireann transition, blended working, the General Operative Traineeship programme and climate action.
- Health and Safety for staff was prioritised with almost 400 site inspections across all work sites and regular Safety Consultation meetings across all work locations. The management team received bi-monthly reports from the Health and Safety Officer on the incidents reported and provided full oversight of the Council's safety management system.
- Staff Wellbeing Action Plan implementation continued with events including Workplace Well Being Day, Breast Cancer Awareness month, Staff Smoking Cessation Programmes, Safety and Wellbeing Seminar.
- Staff awareness and implementation of new legislation introduced during the 2023 and ongoing monitoring of case law, including the Work Life Balance and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 2023 and Transparent and predictable working conditions EU Regulations 2022.
- Performance management workshops were held with outdoor staff and line managers across every depot, while managers were also supported in managing sick leave and absenteeism through improved HR data analytics, advisory support, the production of visual leaflets and other measures.
- Effective Industrial Relations structures were supported with management and trade unions engagement in accordance with the objectives of the Public Services Stability Agreements

through monthly IR meetings, quarterly workforce planning meetings and attendance at the WRC and labour court when disputes escalate.

Objective 6: Advance the Council's use of information and communication technology (ICT) through secure, modern, and intelligent initiatives enabling better experiences and outcomes in service delivery.

- Work advanced on the preparation of our next ICT strategy for the organisation focusing on the themes of digital transformation and solutions, collaboration, engagement, skills, dashboards, frontline, champions and cyber security.
- A security awareness, training, and simulated phishing platform was employed to assist and manage the ongoing challenge of social engineering cyber-attacks. We also engaged with the EU's Cyber Month in October and an extensive programme of cyber security activities were delivered to staff.
- The ICT environment was maintained to a very high standard, and we ensured our security policies were kept up to date, responding to third-party threat alerts and advisories as well as responding to incidents and system generated alerts. Significant advancements in our ICT infrastructure and operations were made with remote working supported through Citrix desktop and VPN solutions. Old ICT infrastructure was decommissioned and removed, and network access control was implemented. Various infrastructures were updated, and ransomware protection was deployed and privileged access management was provided to secure remote access by recognised third parties.
- We continued to harness the capabilities and scalability of the cloud for suitable workloads. Additional spatial datasets were enabled on our Geographic Information Systems to provide relevant and timely information to staff in various business units, including the latest available orthophotography and Geo-Building Intel datasets enhancing staff spatial abilities in analysis and planning.
- We have continued to publish open data for various work areas with publication of noise mapping illustrating noise levels in different areas of the County being a particularly significant project undertaken.
- We continued to expand our range of online services for the public with ePlanning going live and enhancements to our supplier registration, public consultation and housing online portals. The planning search facilities were enhanced together with improved workflow, pre-planning, and dashboard capabilities.
- Our performance monitoring dashboard was improved and enhanced in conjunction with the elected members.

Objective 7: Provide robust financial management and risk management systems.

- Our Debt Management work continued with an extra €9.5 million collected in commercial rates during the year bringing the total collected to over €141 million, the highest amount ever collected and reducing arrears to approximately €14.6 million, the lowest since 2008. Over €31.3 million was collected in differential rents, an increase of over 10% in the previous year. The collection rate for housing loans also continued to improve with loan arrears reducing by 0.5 million to €800,000.
- The Rates Administration section engaged positively with Tailte Éireann (formally the Valuation Office) and processed 51 additional valuations during the year, which will provide on-going additional funding in future years.

- Financial systems improved with the introduction of a new budgeting system, the implementation of the Agresso Loans module and the replacement of the Low Value Credit Card system.
- Work also progressed on the Councils Fixed Asset and Insurance registers which is instrumental in safeguarding the Councils assets.
- In November, the Council adopted a Revenue Budget for 2024 totalling €338,321,100 which is a 10.5% increase on the previous year.
- The Three-Year Capital for 2024 - 2026 Capital Programme with projected expenditure of €1,584,393,900 was presented to Council in December.
- The 2022 AFS was prepared by 31 March 2023 with subsequent audited accounts and audit report submitted to council and audit committee.
- Payments to the Councils suppliers increased by 34% in the year amounting to €380m.
- Comprehensive reviews and updates to our Risk Register were undertaken in February and July.
- The Finance section continued to provide training and support to improved financial management, performance and understanding across the organisation.

Appendices

Appendix 1.1: STATEMENT OF INTERNAL FINANCIAL CONTROL (SIFC)

Introduction

I, Colm Ward, Chief Executive (CE) of South Dublin County Council am responsible for the annual financial statement (AFS), prepared by the Director of Finance, in accordance with the accounting code of practice issued by the Minister under section 107 of the Local Government Act, 2001.

I certify that the financial statements of South Dublin County Council for the year ended 31 December 2023, are in agreement with the books of account and have been prepared in accordance with the accounting requirements of the Minister of Housing Local Government and Heritage.

The AFS is subject to external audit, by an auditor of the Local Government Audit Service, whose purpose is to form an independent opinion of the accounts and state whether the annual financial statement presents *fairly the financial position* of the local authority and of its income and expenditure for the period in question, and whether the transactions of the local authority under which they purport to have been carried out.

The AFS reports on the day-to-day activity of South Dublin County Council in the form of the Statement of Comprehensive Income & Expenditure, summarised by Division. The Statement of Financial Position outlines the South Dublin County Council overall financial position as of the 31st of December 2023.

The *Statement of Comprehensive Income* represents expenditure and income on the day-to-day running of the South Dublin County Council.

The key sources of income for South Dublin County Council are as follows:

	Current Year	Previous Year
	€	€
Goods & Services	63,743,793	55,918,104
Grants & Subsidies	95,938,862	88,386,883
Other Contributions (as appropriate)	6,148,882	3,758,634
Rates	143,348,935	139,007,990
Local Property Tax	6,276,017	6,925,817

Activity on the Income and Expenditure account for 2023 is as follows:

Current Year	Previous Year
--------------	---------------

	€	€
Income	315,456,489	293,997,427
Expenditure	260,195,033	252,038,021
Transfers to Capital	55,206,355	41,914,650
Surplus/(Deficit) for	55,101	44,756
Opening Revenue Reserve	12,282,493	12,237,737
Closing Revenue Reserve	12,337,594	12,282,493

There was an increase in income of €21,459,061. Income from Goods & Services rose by €7,825,689, which principally from increased rental income and Property Entry Levy. Grants & Subsidies income also rose by €7,551,979 mainly as a result of additional housing and energy related funding from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. There was also an increase in Rates income of €4,340,495.

The Councils closing Revenue reserve of €12,337,594 increased by the €55,101 surplus for the year. The continued surpluses over the last number of years shows the councils commitment to maintaining its strong financial position.

The *Statement of Financial Position (Balance Sheet)* represents the total financial activity of the council for the year together with comparative year figures as appropriate.

The statement includes assets and liabilities as follows:

- Assets both recently constructed/purchased and historical assets
- Work in progress and preliminary schemes- mainly roads and housing
- Long Term Debtors – housing loans
- Current Assets- including Stock, Debtors, Cash at bank
- Current and long term liabilities- mortgage and non-mortgage loan borrowings
- Various Reserves/Balances

The Net Assets South Dublin County Council at the end of 2023 total €4,119,016,479 and are as follows:

	Current Year	Previous Year
	€	€
Fixed Assets	3,455,636,442	3,414,698,273
Works in Progress	205,252,370	126,043,801
Long Term debtors	212,538,294	195,063,900
Current Assets	613,470,962	537,330,804
Current Liabilities	94,020,886	98,996,580
Net Current Assets/ (Liabilities)	519,450,076	438,334,224

Creditors (Amounts greater than 1 year)	273,860,703	262,568,237
Net Assets/(Liabilities)	4,119,016,479	3,911,571,960

A *Statement of Funds Flow* was introduced as part of AFS 2011. While the guidance of International Accounting Standard 7 Statement of Cash Flows has been followed, the business of local authorities is substantially different to most private sector organisations and therefore some minor changes to the format have been agreed to ensure the data displayed is meaningful and useful within the local government sector.

System of Internal Financial Controls

As CE of South Dublin County Council, I acknowledge my responsibility for ensuring that an effective system of internal financial control is maintained and operated by the South Dublin County Council. This responsibility is exercised in the context of the resources available to South Dublin County Council. Also, any system of internal financial control can provide only reasonable and not absolute assurance that assets are safeguarded, transactions authorised and properly recorded, and that material errors or irregularities are either prevented or would be detected in a timely manner. Maintaining the system of internal financial controls is a continuous process and the system and its effectiveness are kept under ongoing review.

Financial control environment

As CE of South Dublin County Council, I confirm that a financial control environment containing the following elements is in place:

- Financial responsibilities have been assigned at management level with corresponding accountability.
- Reporting arrangements have been established at all levels where responsibility for financial management has been assigned.
- Formal procedures have been established for reporting significant control failures and ensuring appropriate corrective action.
- There is an Audit Committee which as part of its work programme regularly review the internal financial control system.
- Procedures for all key business processes have been documented.
- There are systems in place to safeguard the assets.

Administrative Controls and Management Reporting

As CE of South Dublin County Council, I confirm that a framework of administrative procedures and regular management reporting is in place including segregation of duties and a system of delegation and accountability and, in particular, that:

- procedures for key business processes have been documented
- there are systems aimed at ensuring the security of the ICT systems
- there are systems in place to safeguard the assets of the local authority and
- there are appropriate capital investment control guidelines and formal project management disciplines in operation.

Procurement compliance

South Dublin County Council ensures that there is an appropriate and ongoing focus on good practice in tendering and purchasing and that procedures are in place to ensure compliance with all relevant procurement guidelines.

Internal audit and Audit Committee

As Chief Executive, I can confirm that South Dublin County Council has an internal audit function with appropriately trained personnel, which operates in accordance with a written charter. Its work is informed by analysis of the financial risks to which South Dublin County Council is exposed and its annual internal audit plans are based on this analysis. I am satisfied that there are procedures in place to ensure that the reports of the internal audit function are followed up.

I can confirm that South Dublin County Council has an effective audit committee which carries out an annual effectiveness review of their activities. I can also confirm that an Audit Committee is in place in accordance with the requirements of Section 122 of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended).

The statutory functions of audit committees as set out in section 59 and 60 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014 are as follows:

- I. to review financial and budgetary reporting practices and procedures within the local authority that has established it;
- II. to foster the development of best practice in the performance by the local authority of its internal audit function;
- III. to review any audited financial statement, auditor's report or auditor's special report in relation to the local authority and assess any actions taken within that authority by its chief executive in response to such a statement or report and to report to that authority on its findings;
- IV. to assess and promote efficiency and value for money with respect to the local authority's performance of its functions; and
- V. to review systems that are operated by the local authority for the management of risks.

I recognise that the audit committee plays a crucial role in the governance framework of local authorities, particularly in the context of increased public sector accountability. They have an independent role in advising the Council on financial reporting processes, internal control, risk management and audit matters as part of the systematic review of the control environment and governance procedures of the local authority.

I acknowledge the Audit Committee's role in the risk management process and in the continuing review of the control environment and governance procedures in South Dublin County Council.

Risk and control framework

South Dublin County Council has implemented a risk management system which identifies and reports key risks and the management actions being taken to address and, to the extent possible, mitigate those risks.

A corporate risk register is in place which identifies the key risks and evaluates and grades them according to their significance. The register is reviewed and updated by the Management Team on a regular basis. There is also a risk register in place for each service division and these are also reviewed and updated on a regular basis.

The outcome of these assessments is used to plan and allocate resources to ensure risks are managed to an acceptable level. The risk register details the controls and actions needed to mitigate risks and responsibilities for the operation of controls are assigned to specific staff.

As Chief Executive, I confirm that key risks and related controls have been identified and processes have been put in place to monitor the operation of those key controls and report any identified deficiencies.

The Statement of Internal Financial Control will be included in the draft Annual Report submitted to Council members by 30 April 2023 and thereafter included in the published Annual Report prepared and adopted by the Council by 30 June 2023.

Signed by:

Dated:



Appendix 1.2: Financial Statements

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT STATEMENT) FOR YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER 2023

The Income and Expenditure Account Statement brings together all the revenue related income and expenditure.

It shows the surplus/(deficit) for the year. Transfers to/from reserves are shown separately and not allocated by service division. Note 16 allocates transfers by service division in the same format as Table A of the adopted Local Authority budget.

Expenditure by Division

		Gross Expenditure	Income	Net Expenditure	Net Expenditure
		2023	2023	2023	2022
	Notes	€	€	€	€
Housing & Building		101,864,537	104,236,586	(2,372,049)	2,493,519
Roads Transportation & Safety		33,571,303	7,811,834	25,759,469	23,803,984
Water Services		12,274,564	8,956,027	3,318,538	3,804,243
Development Management		20,598,259	9,693,791	10,904,469	10,454,817
Environmental Services		39,468,940	8,595,903	30,873,037	31,744,080
Recreation & Amenity		42,936,535	4,202,368	38,734,166	36,521,024
Agriculture, Food and the Marine		1,553,612	547,814	1,005,798	965,260
Miscellaneous Services		7,927,283	21,787,215	(13,859,932)	(5,812,528)
Total Expenditure/Income	15	260,195,033	165,831,537		
Net cost of Divisions to be funded from Rates & Local Property Tax				94,363,496	103,974,400
Rates				143,348,935	139,007,990
Local Property Tax				6,276,017	6,925,817
Surplus/(Deficit) for Year before Transfers	16			55,261,456	41,959,407
Transfers from/(to) Reserves	14			(55,206,355)	(41,914,650)
Overall Surplus/(Deficit) for Year				55,101	44,756
General Reserve @ 1st January 2023				12,282,493	12,237,737
General Reserve @ 31st December 2023				12,337,595	12,282,493

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION (BALANCE SHEET) AT 31st DECEMBER 2023

	Notes	2023 €	2022 €
Fixed Assets	1		
Operational		2,212,506,785	2,163,461,730
Infrastructural		1,139,173,785	1,146,872,564
Community		15,546,375	15,900,028
		88,409,497	88,463,950
Non-Operational		3,455,636,442	3,414,698,273
Work in Progress and Preliminary Expenses	2	205,252,370	126,043,801
		212,538,294	195,063,900
Long Term Debtors	3		
		-	-
Current Assets		97,516,251	53,633,966
Stocks	4	512,070,496	465,000,699
Trade Debtors & Prepayments	5	3,850,553	18,662,478
Bank Investments		33,661	33,661
Cash at Bank		613,470,962	537,330,804
Cash in Transit			
Current Liabilities (Amounts falling due within one year)		-	-
Bank Overdraft		94,020,886	98,996,580
Creditors & Accruals		-	-
Finance Leases	6	94,020,886	98,996,580
		519,450,076	438,334,224
Net Current Assets / (Liabilities)			
		147,101,051	156,651,394
Creditors (Amounts falling due after more than one year)		-	-
Loans Payable	7	35,512,498	37,134,013
Finance Leases		91,247,154	68,782,830
Refundable deposits	8	273,860,703	262,568,237
Other			
		4,119,016,479	3,911,571,960
Net Assets			
Represented by			
Capitalisation Account	9	3,455,636,442	3,414,698,273
Income WIP		211,549,695	125,164,191
General Revenue Reserve	2	12,337,595	12,282,493
Other Specific Reserves		-	-
Other Balances	10	439,492,746	359,427,003

Total Reserves

**STATEMENT OF FUNDS FLOW (FUNDS FLOW STATEMENT)
AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2023**

	Note	2023 €	2023 €
REVENUE ACTIVITIES			
Net Inflow/(outflow) from operating activities	17	(48,802,878)	
CAPITAL ACTIVITIES			
Returns on Investment & Servicing of Finance			
Increase/(Decrease) in Fixed Asset Capitalisation Funding		40,938,170	
Increase/(Decrease) in WIP/Preliminary Funding		86,385,504	
Increase/(Decrease) in Reserves Balances	18	<u>95,323,997</u>	
Net Inflow/(Outflow) from Returns on Investment and Servicing of Finance			222,647,671
Capital Expenditure & Financial Investment			
(Increase)/Decrease in Fixed Assets		(40,938,170)	
(Increase)/Decrease in WIP/Preliminary Funding		(79,208,570)	
(Increase)/Decrease in Other Capital Balances	19	<u>(19,860,516)</u>	
Net Inflow/(Outflow) from Capital Expenditure and Financial Investment			(140,007,255)
Financing			
Increase/(Decrease) in Loan Financing	20	(4,560,413)	
(Increase)/Decrease in Reserve Financing	21	<u>4,602,262</u>	
Net Inflow/(Outflow) from Financing Activities		41,849	
Third Party Holdings			
Increase/(Decrease) in Refundable Deposits			(1,621,515)
Net Increase/(Decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents	22		<u><u>32,257,872</u></u>

Appendix 1.2 Entertainment and Associated Expenses

Section 76 of the Local Government Act 2001 requires that the annual report of a local authority record the expenditure and other particulars in connection with the provision of receptions and entertainment in relation to:

- a. Distinguished persons, and
- b. In connection with the holding of special events relevant to its function.

Pursuant to this requirement, South Dublin County Council hereby confirms that this figure was €4,422.82 in total for 2023.

Appendix 2.1: Current Elected Members

Clondalkin

Councillor Trevor Gilligan	FF	Councillor Derren Ó Brádaigh	SF
Councillor Shirley O'Hara	FG	Councillor Madeleine Johansson	PBP
Councillor Kenneth Egan	FG	Councillor Alan Hayes	IND
Councillor Francis Timmons	IND	Councillor Shane Moynihan	FF
Councillor William Joseph Carey	SF		
Councillor Laura Donaghy	Green	Firhouse – Bohernabreena	
Councillor Eoin Ó Broin	SD	Councillor Lynn Hagin-Meade	Green

Firhouse – Bohernabreena

Councillor Lyn Hagin-Meade	Green
Councillor Lilian Guéret	FF
Councillor Brian Lawlor	FG

Rathfarnham – Templeogue

Councillor Justin Sinnott	SD	Councillor Emma Murphy	FF
Councillor Yvonne Collins	FF	Councillor Alan Edge	IND
Councillor Lynn McCrave	FG		
Councillor Pamela Kearns	LAB	Tallaght Central	
Councillor Ronan McMahon	IND	Councillor Kieran Mahon	SOL
Councillor David McManus	FG	Councillor Charlie O'Connor	FF
Councillor Mark Lynch	Green	Councillor Mick Duff	IND

Tallaght Central

Councillor Kieran Mahon	SOL
Councillor Charlie O'Connor	FF
Councillor Mick Duff	IND
Councillor Teresa Costello	FF
Councillor Cathal King	SF
Councillor Vanessa Mulhall	Gre

Lucan

Councillor Ed O'Brien	FF
Councillor Vicki Casserly	FG
Councillor Liona O'Toole	IND
Councillor Paul Nicholas Gogarty	IND
Councillor Joanna Tuffy	LAB

Tallaght South

Councillor Patrick Pearse Holohan	IND
Councillor Leah Whelan	SOL
Councillor Dermot Richardson	SF
Councillor Louise Dunne	SF
Councillor Baby Pereppadan	FG

Palmerstown – North Clondalkin

Councillor Guss O'Connell	IND	Councillor Baby Pereppadan	FG
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Appendix 2.2 Payments Made to Councillors in 2023

Representational Payment Totals

• Representational Payments	€1,137,448.69
• Monthly Payments	€168,899.97
• Local Representation Payment	€173,665.08
• Strategic Policy Committee Chairperson's Allowance Total	€34,979.69
• Mayor's Allowance	€29,552.43
• Deputy Mayor's Allowance	€6462.43
• Training	€35,712.89
• Conferences	€4526.32
• Security Allowance	€0

Total of Expenses paid to members in respect of attendance at meetings of the County Council and its Committees **€1,591,246.91**

Appendix 2.3 Council Membership of Committees and Other Bodies

Association of Irish Local Government

Councillor	Party
Cllr. Brian Lawlor	FG
Cllr. Baby Pereppadan	FG
Cllr. Mick Duff	IND

Civic Theatre Committee

Councillor	Party
Cllr. Lyn Hagin Meade	GP
Cllr. Baby Pereppadan	FG

Clondalkin Local Drugs & Alcohol Task Force

Councillor	Party
Cllr. William Carey	SF
Cllr. Eoin Ó Broin	SD
Cllr. Madeleine Johansson	SOL-PBP

Dublin and Dún Laoghaire Education and Training Board

Councillor	Party
Cllr. Mick Duff	IND
Cllr. Charlie O'Connor	FF
Cllr. Yvonne Collins	FF
Cllr. Pamela Kearns	LAB

Dublin 12 Local Drugs Task Force

Councillor	Party
Cllr. Pamela Kearns	FG

Dublin Bus/Luas Community Forum

Councillor	Party
Cllr. Mark Lynch	GP
Cllr. David McManus	FG
Cllr. Shane Moynihan	FF
Cllr. Dermot Richardson	SF

Eastern & Midlands Regional Assembly

Councillor	Party
Cllr. Lyn Hagin Meade	GP
Cllr. Laura Donaghy	GP
Cllr. Pamela Kearns	SF

Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurances Ltd

Councillor	Party
Cllr. Ronan McMahon	NP

Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee

Councillor	Party
Cllr. Dermot Richardson	SF
Cllr. William Carey	SF
Cllr. Shane Moynihan	FF
Cllr. Teresa Costello	FF
Cllr. Leah Whelan	SOL-PBP
Cllr. Guss O'Connell	NP

Local Authority Members Association

Councillor	Party
Cllr. Brian Lawlor	FG

Regional Health Forum - Dublin - Mid Leinster

Councillor	Party
Cllr. David McManus	FG
Cllr. Kenneth Egan	FG
Cllr. Charlie O'Connor	FF
Cllr. Teresa Costello	FF
Cllr. Lilian Guéret	FF
Cllr. Cathal King	SF
Cllr. Derren Ó Brádaigh	SF

South Dublin County Joint Policing Committee (14 + Current Mayor)

Councillor	Party
Cllr. Alan Edge (Mayor)	IND
Cllr. Lynn McCrave	FG
Cllr. J. Sinnott	SD
Cllr. Baby Pereppadan	FG
Cllr. Lilian Guéret	GP
Cllr. Mark Lynch	GP
Cllr. Shane Moynihan (Chair)	FF
Cllr. Yvonne Collins	FF
Cllr. Shirley O'Hara	FG
Cllr. Louise Dunne	SF
Cllr. Cathal King	SF
Cllr. Derren Ó Brádaigh	SF
Cllr. Liona O'Toole	NP
Cllr. Mick Duff	IND
Cllr. Eoin Ó Broin	SD

South Dublin Local Community Development Committee

Councillor	Party
Cllr. Alan Hayes	NP
Cllr. David McManus	FG
Cllr. Kieran Mahon	SOL-PBP

South Dublin County Partnership

Councillor	Party
Cllr. Emma Murphy	FF
Cllr. Baby Perepaddan	FG
Cllr. Mick Duff	IND
Cllr. Guss O'Connell	IND

South Western Regional Drugs Task Force

Councillor	Party
Cllr. Mick Duff	NP

Tallaght Community Arts Centre

Councillor	Party
Cllr. Vanessa Mulhall	GP
Cllr. Baby Pereppadan	FG

Tallaght Drug & Alcohol Task Force

Councillor	Party
Cllr. Emma Murphy	FF
Cllr. Charlie O'Connor	FF
Cllr. Mick Duff	NP
Cllr. Alan Edge (Mayor)	NP

Inter Local Authority Committee on Fire/Ambulance Services and Emergency Management

Councillor	Party
Cllr. Lynn McCrave	FG
Cllr. Alan Edge (Mayor)	IND
Cllr. L. O'Toole	IND
Cllr. V. Mulhall	GP

Infrastructure Naming Committee

Councillor	Party
Mayor - Chair	-
Cllr. Mark Mynch	GP
Cllr. F. Timmons	IND
Cllr. M. Duff	NP
Cllr. L. Dunne	SF
Cllr. P. Kearns	LAB
Cllr. L. McCrave	FG

Commemorations Committee

Councillor	Party
Cllr. T. Costello	FF
Cllr. L. O'Toole	IND
Cllr. L. Dunne	SF
Cllr. V. Casserly	FG
Cllr. J. Sinnott	SD
Cllr. L. Donaghy	GP

Dodder Greenway Steering Committee

Councillor	Party
M. Duff	IND
E. Murphy	FF

Laura Donaghy	GP
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300K Have your Say Steering Group Membership

Councillor	Party
Cllr. V. Casserly	FG
Cllr. E. Murphy	FF
Cllr. P. Kearns	GP
Cllr. G. O'Connell	NP
Cllr. W. Carey	SF
Cllr. M. Duff	FG
Cllr. D. Richardson	SF
Cllr. Baby Pereppadan	FG

Liffey Valley Management Advisory Committee

Councillor	Party
E. O'Brien	FF
L. O'Toole	IND
A. Hayes	IND

Working Group to Progress Links with a Council in Northern Ireland

Councillor	Party
Cllr. Laura Donaghy (Chair)	GP
Cllr. Alan Hayes	IND
Cllr. Derren Ó Brádaigh	SF
Cllr. Emma Murphy	FF

Audit Committee 2023

The composition of the Audit Committee in 2023 was as follows:

- Eilis Quinlan, (Chair) Quinlan & Co Chartered Accountants
- Ann Horan, Chairperson of the Food Safety Authority of Ireland
- George Kennington, Partner Audit, Crowe Ireland
- Martin Nolan, Head of Compliance, Bright Software Group

- Councillor David McManus
- Councillor Guss O'Connell
- Councillor Teresa Costello

South Dublin County Joint Policing Committee

Cllr Shane Moynihan	Elected Member	Chair
Cllr. Mick Duff	Elected Member	Vice-Chair
Cllr. Emma Murphy	Elected Member	
Cllr. Mark Lynch	Elected Member	
Cllr. Justin Sinnott	Elected Member	
Cllr. Yvonne Collins	Elected Member	
Cllr. Louise Dunne	Elected Member	
Cllr. Cathal King	Elected Member	
Cllr. Lynn McCrave	Elected Member	
Cllr. Derren Ó Brádaigh	Elected Member	
Cllr Eoin Ó Broin	Elected Member	
Cllr Lilian Guéret	Elected Member	
Cllr Shirley O'Hara	Elected Member	
Cllr. Liona O'Toole	Elected Member	
Cllr Baby Pereppadan	Elected Member	
Sean Crowe TD	Oireachtas Member	
Emer Higgins TD	Oireachtas Member	
John Lahart, TD	Oireachtas Member	
Mark Ward TD	Oireachtas Member	
Paul Murphy TD	Oireachtas Member	
Chief Superintendent Michael McNulty – DMR West Blanchardstown Divisional Office	An Garda Siochana	
Chief Superintendent Magella Armstrong – DMR South – Crumlin Divisional Office	An Garda Siochana	
Superintendent Bronagh O'Reilly, DMR South	An Garda Siochana	
Superintendent Paul Dolan, DMR West (Lucan & Ronanstown)	An Garda Siochana	
Superintendent Steven Mullen DMR West (Clondalkin)	An Garda Siochana	
Gemma Carton, Garda Diversion	Foroige	
Inspector Patrick Duggan, DMR South	An Garda Siochana	
Inspector Paul Mayock, DMR West	An Garda Siochana	
Inspector David Mayne, DMR West	An Garda Siochana	
Inspector Aonghus Hussey, DMR West	An Garda Siochana	
Inspector John Coughlan, DMR West	An Garda Siochana	
Trevor Bissett, Clondalkin D&ATF	Community	
Grace Hill, Tallaght D&ATF	Community	
Elaine Leech	Director, SDCC	
Maria Nugent	JPC Coordinator, SDCC	
Anna Whyte	Saoirse Domestic Violence	
John Conroy	PPN Community	
Vacancy	PPN	
Sue Dorgan	PPN Community	
Vacancy	PPN	

Noreen Byrne, North Clondalkin LPF	North Clondalkin LPF	
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Local Community Development Committee Membership 2023

Maria Nugent	Chief Officer, LCDC
Elaine Leech	Director of Services, SDCC
Thomas Rooney	Local Enterprise Office, SDCC
Tricia Nolan	Chair, LCDC -South Dublin County Volunteer Centre
Valerie Hogg	Vice Chair - Adult Education Officer, Dublin and Dún Laoghaire Education and Training Board (DDLETB)
Cllr. Kieran Mahon	Elected Representative
Cllr. David McManus	Elected Representative
Cllr. Alan Hayes	Elected Representative
Larry O'Neill	South Dublin County Partnership
Margaret McQuillan	Health Service Executive
Andy Leeson	Foroige - Youth Sector
Eugene Donnelly	Department of Social Protection
Dr. Noel McCarthy	Community Representative, TCD
Dr. Phil Mulvaney	Community Representative, TUD
Vacancy	Public Participation Network Environment Pillar
Enda Creegan	Public Participation Network Social Inclusion Pillar
Noreen Byrne	Public Participation Network- Social Inclusion Pillar
Vacancy	Public Participation Network Community Pillar
Vacancy	Public Participation Network Community
Vacancy	Community Integration Representative

Appendix 3: Training and Conferences Attended by Councillors in 2023

Name	Location	Date
AILG Annual Training	Kilkenny	19 - 20 April
AILG Module 1	Limerick	25 February
AILG Module 2	Dundalk	25 March
AILG Module 3	Mullingar	15 June
AILG Module 4	Sligo	22 July
AILG Module 5	Cavan	19 Oct
AILG Module 6	Galway	18 Nov
LAMA Spring Training	Cork	2 - 4 March
LAMA Autum Training	Galway	25 -26 Oct
AIR regions	Monaghan	7 - 9 Feb
MacGill Summer school	Donegal	16 -19th August
AILG Autumn Training	Sligo	13 -14 Sept
Irish Council for Social Housing	Wexford	18 -19 Oct
Daniel O'Connell Summer School	Kerry	27 -28 Oct
Irish District Energy Association	Dublin	26 Oct

Appendix 4: South Dublin County Council Equality and Human Rights Framework

Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Framework Duty implementation update

South Dublin County Council continued to implement the Equality and Human Rights Framework, which was developed during 2022, including production of the Framework document as an ISL video and supporting the redevelopment of the SDCC Equality and Human Rights Working Group. This fulfils the Council's commitment under the Corporate Plan and the legal requirement under Section 42 (Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty), of the Irish Human Rights and Equality Act 2014. The 'Duty' sets out the responsibilities for all public bodies in Ireland to promote equality, prevent discrimination and protect the human rights of their employees, customers, service users and everyone affected by their policies and plans.

The Council's cross departmental Equality and Human Rights Working Group guide, support and monitor the implementation the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty. Public Sector Duty information pages are available on both the Staff intranet and the website www.sdcc.ie

The following actions taken throughout 2023 are examples of how SDCC are implementing the Public Sector Duty across the Council:

- **South Dublin Women's Caucus:** SDCC Corporate Services provides ongoing support for the SD Women's Caucus. The Caucus held a panel discussion to mark International Women's Day on Wednesday, 8 March 2023. The Panel was represented across the political spectrum with Mayor of South Dublin County Council, Cllr. Emma Murphy, Chair of the Women's Caucus Cllr. Vicki Casserly, Cllr. Pamela Kearns, Cllr. Lynn Hagin Meade, Cllr. Louise Dunne and Cllr. Carly Bailey discussing the role of women in politics, the benefit of female participation and the importance of continued growth in the numbers of women engaging in local democracy.
- **Your Vote - Your Voice:** The event also marked the official launch of South Dublin County Council's "Your Vote Your Voice - an easy-to-read guide to voting" booklet which explains the voting process in Ireland. The purpose of the booklet is to provide information on how to exercise your right to vote,

such as information on the different types of elections and voting that takes place in Ireland and how you register to vote.

- **LGBTQI+:** On the 50th anniversary of the beginning of the campaign for LGBTQ+ civil rights in Ireland, a vibrant line-up of events and activities was organised in celebration of Pride Month throughout June. These initiatives were held to promote diversity, equality, and representation, creating an inclusive environment for all members of the community. The Pride flag was flown for the month at County Hall and Civic Offices Clondalkin. The Transgender Pride Flag was flown at County Hall and Civic Offices Clondalkin on 20 November 2023 to mark International Transgender Day of Remembrance and for one month from 31 March in recognition of International Transgender Day of Visibility.
- **Changing Places Toilets:** South Dublin County Council hosted the Centre for Excellence in Universal Design (CEUD) / National Disability Authority (NDA) in June 2023 to inform the new Universal Design Guidelines for Changing Places toilets. Changing Places toilets goes beyond a conventional wheelchair-accessible toilet, to include additional assistive technology of a hoist, height-adjustable adult-sized changing bench and peninsular toilet (a toilet with enough space on both sides for assistants).
- **WAM Graduate Programme:** South Dublin County Council is filling new graduate roles through the WAM (Willing Able Mentoring) Programme which will offer paid, mentored, work placements exclusively for Level 6 (on the National Qualification Framework) graduates with disabilities, in partnership with AHEAD. AHEAD is an independent non-profit organisation creating inclusive environments in education and employment for people with disabilities. AHEAD advertised on behalf of South Dublin County Council in September 2023 with onboarding of candidates to commence in early 2024.
- **Towards a JAM Card© friendly County:** SDCC is a JAM Card© friendly local authority. The **JAM Card©** allows people with a communication barrier tell others they need 'Just A Minute' discreetly and easily. South Dublin County Council committed to becoming a JAM Card© friendly local authority to send out a clear message of inclusion, access and quality customer service. To date, the following SDCC facilities have become JAM Card© friendly: County Hall, Civic Offices Clondalkin, South Dublin Libraries, Rua Red, Civic Theatre, Clondalkin Leisure Centre, Tallaght Leisure Centre and Round Tower Clondalkin. In 2023 South Dublin County Council provided

advice and guidance to a number of Councils around Ireland to assist them to begin their journeys to becoming JAM Card friendly.

- **National Accessibility Week** took place across the County from 27 November 2023 and culminated on International Day of Disabled Persons which takes place annually around 3 December. In partnership with organisations across the County, the council developed a diverse programme of events which included Wheelchair Self Defence assisted climbing, and ISL Interpreted tours of key South Dublin heritage sites. In total, some fifty events were delivered during National Accessibility Week in collaboration with the SDCC Communications Unit, South Dublin Libraries, Clondalkin Leisure Centre, Pearse Museum, Rathfarnham Castle, Tallaght Leisure Centre, Stewarts Care, ILMI, Noise Dublin, Defence Labs and the Dublin Climbing Centre.
- **EU Access Cities Award:** The Access City Award has been created by the European Commission to reward cities that have prioritised accessibility for persons with disabilities. Accessible spaces – both physical and virtual – are the first step to equality. If persons with disabilities cannot access transportation, shops, parks, websites and so on, they cannot make their own choices and take control of their lives. South Dublin County Council was awarded the Special Mention Award for Landscape and Playground Areas at the event which was held in Brussels for our work on developing accessible playspaces in the County.
- **National Diversity and Inclusivity Awards:** South Dublin County Council was shortlisted for the Irish Centre for Diversity's Advancing Disability Equality Award. This award recognises organisations leading the way in advancing disability equality and that are considered as role models in creating an inclusive culture and championing inclusive recruitment and talent management practices to allow visibly/non-visibly disabled employees to realise their full potential.
- **Make Way Day** is a National Public Awareness Campaign held annually in September to highlight the issues disabled people face getting around their

local communities, particularly with regard to pedestrian access. This initiative was created by, and is managed nationally by, Disability Federation Ireland (DFI). SDCC participates in this campaign each year. Two videos were produced by the Communications Unit with the Mayor and two disabled persons highlighting the barriers that disabled pedestrians face.

- **Literacy friendly local authority:** Over 40 Council documents were plain English and equality proofed including: text for various webpages, Senior Management Team Plan, the Council's 2022 Annual Report, recruitment documents, draft Climate Change Action Plan, Health and Safety related policies and notices, various staff policies, and the South Dublin Today and South Circular newsletters.

Appendix 5 Energy Efficiency Report

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Local authority Energy savings	34.4%	45.7%	40.0%	41.3%	43.4%*

*Final 2023 figure to be confirmed by SEAI in Q2 2024

Appendix 6 Protected Disclosures

Section 22 of the Protected Disclosures Act 2014 requires the publication of an annual report relative to Protected Disclosures received.

Pursuant to this requirement, South Dublin County Council hereby confirms that one report was received in 2023 and the investigation remained open at year-end.

Appendix 7: Local Performance Indicators 2023

Economic, Enterprise and Tourism Development

Statistic Name	2023 Totals
LEO - jobs supported	47
Business support grants spend	€135,351
Grange Castle jobs sustained	5,328
Library - visitors actual	858,102
Library - items borrowed	943,105
LEO mentoring participants	669
Trading online voucher applications approved	93
Active library members	60,268
Spend on new library stock	€615,257
Number of Festival and tourism events supported	7
Visitors to round tower heritage centre	106,385
Visitors to arts centres	384,965
Number of arts grants paid	156
Value of arts grants paid	€1,374,069

Land Use, Planning and Transportation

Statistic Name	2023 Totals
Enforcement files closed	312
Building control inspections (number of units inspected)	563
No of public lights repaired	4,790
Traffic lights repaired	1,041
Public Lighting LED Programme	2,012
New and upgraded footpaths m2	67,231
New and upgraded cycle lanes – linear metres	22,382
Village and district enhancement expenditure	€1,820,106
Private homes approved	4,652
Private homes commenced	3,900
Planning applications received	942
% planning applications granted	68%
Pre planning meetings held within eight weeks	90

Housing, Social and Community Development

Statistic Name	2023 Totals
Total housing needs assessed	7,950
Allocations - New Tenancies	525
Visitors to leisure facilities	667,904
PRTB Inspections	1,619
Homeless exits / preventions	520
Expenditure on planned Maintenance	€8,633,555
Number of dwellings in LA ownership	9,835
No. of LA Houses vacant	60
Social and affordable homes under construction	534
HAP/ RAS tenancies	5,178
Number of community grants paid	369
Participants in council led sports and community initiatives	111,030
Number of homeless households	698
Relet times - weeks	21.95
Maintenance requests received	15,760
Maintenance requests completed	11,640

Number of homes completed under the Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme	163
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Environment, Water & Climate Change

Statistic Name	2023 Totals
Grass cut - Hectares	7,349
Trees pruned	3,953
Trees planted	751
Plastic bottles saved through use of drinking water from fountains	98,261
Biodiverse Meadowland maintained (hectares)	165
Climate Action Initiatives under Climate Action Plan	154
Local Authority Energy Savings	40%
Environmental/climate action awareness sessions	179
New recreational facilities (e.g., playspaces, teenspaces, pitches etc.)	21
Pollution Cases that were the subject of a complaint	3,515
Pollution Cases closed	3,346
Provision of walking and cycling routes in parks/open spaces (Kilometres)	158,868

Corporate Performance and Change Management

Statistic Name	2023 Totals
Number of Customer Queries closed within deadline	29,541
Number of Members Reps closed within deadline	3,943
Number of Freedom of Information/Data Access Requests responded to	338
Number of Citizens who actively engaged in Council consultations (incl. consultation portal, citizen surveys and PB votes)	2,038
Telephone calls answered	193,696
Social Media Engagement	1,168,043
Web pages opened	1,718,510
Social media followers	152,128
People on the electoral register	194,884
Staff Learning and development courses	293
Total IT expenditure	€6,738,140

Appendix 8 Senior Management Team

- **Chief Executive** - Colm Ward
- **Director of Corporate Performance and Change Management** - Lorna Maxwell
- **Director of Economic, Enterprise and Tourism Development** - Jason Frehill
- **Director of Environment, Water and Climate Change** - Teresa Walsh
- **Director of Housing, Social and Community Development** - Elaine Leech
- **Director of Land Use, Planning and Transportation** - Mick Mulhern
- **Head of Finance** - Ronan Fitzgerald
- **Head of Information Systems** - Tommy Kavanagh
- **County Architect** - Cian Harte
- **Law Agent** - Sean O'Shea