

Chief Executive's Report

How we're
creating greater
opportunity for
all

June 2026



Sod Turning at Foothills Killinarden



About the Chief Executive's Report

The Chief Executive's Report is presented to elected members at each SDCC monthly meeting. It forms a key part of our governance and oversight framework, supporting members in their role by providing timely updates on the work of the Council.

In line with Section 136(2) of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended by the Local Government Reform Act 2014), the report outlines the performance of executive functions, the implementation of Council policy, and the delivery of services across the organisation.

This report should be read alongside updates provided to Area Committee Meetings and the quarterly Capital Progress Report, which together offer a comprehensive view of Council activity and progress.

Each edition includes:

- Updates on how we are delivering on our Corporate Plan goals
- Highlights of major initiatives and events
- A visual snapshot of recent community and Council activities

The report also provides an opportunity to shine a light on areas of our work that may not always be in the spotlight but are vital to the day-to-day life of the county.

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Climate Leadership



Working with farmers to protect water quality

Agriculture plays an important role in our rural areas, with approximately 100 square kilometres of land used for livestock and crop production.

Supporting good farming practices is essential to protecting and improving the quality of rivers, lakes and groundwater.

Work is ongoing with farming communities to help protect water bodies from agricultural pressures through proactive engagement and farm inspections under the Environmental Protection Agency's National Agricultural Inspection Programme. This approach focuses on collaboration and practical support to help reduce impacts on water quality.

A range of improvements are being implemented on farms, including better fertiliser management, the creation of buffer zones along watercourses and upgrades to farm infrastructure.

These measures help to reduce nutrient and slurry runoff while supporting biodiversity and protecting habitats.

Awareness of best practice is also being strengthened through engagement with agricultural bodies, advisers and farmers, alongside highlighting positive actions already being implemented locally. This collaborative approach supports shared learning and encourages consistent standards.

Supporting these actions contributes to cleaner water, healthier ecosystems and improved environmental outcomes for communities. Continued engagement with farmers and national bodies will help to deliver sustained improvements in water quality across the county.

Further information is available on our website [here](#).

Dublin Climate Action Week

Dublin Climate Action Week took place from 11 to 17 May across the Dublin region, bringing together local authorities, communities and organisations to focus on climate action and sustainability.

The week was officially launched by the Minister for Climate, Energy and the Environment, Darragh O'Brien, alongside the Cathaoirleach of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council, Cllr. Jim Gildea, the Lord Mayor of Dublin, Cllr. Ray McAdam, the Deputy Mayor of Fingal County Council, Cllr. Gráinne Maguire, and the Mayor of South Dublin County Council, Cllr. Pamela Kearns.

Organised jointly by the four Dublin local authorities, the Dublin Metropolitan Climate Action Regional Office and Dublin's energy agency Codema, the programme highlighted the range of climate action initiatives already underway across Dublin. It also encouraged individuals, households and communities to take practical steps towards a more sustainable future.

Our programme engaged directly with communities, bringing together residents, businesses, schools, colleges and community organisations to promote practical action on climate mitigation, adaptation and biodiversity protection.

A range of workshops, talks, exhibitions,

school programmes and community-led initiatives were held throughout the week. The energy information evenings were a particular highlight, offering practical support to local households to better understand energy use, reduce consumption and access available supports. Guided tours were provided of the Tallaght District Heating Scheme, alongside tours of Tymon Park wetlands and flood alleviation works. A joint event in the Dublin Mountains, delivered in partnership with LAWPRO and the Dublin Mountains Partnership, further highlighted the role of nature-based solutions in climate action.

Dublin Climate Action Week continues to play an important role in strengthening public awareness, collaboration and local engagement. The programme demonstrates how collective action at community level can contribute to addressing climate challenges while supporting more sustainable and resilient communities.



Climate Leadership



Biodiversity Week brings nature to local communities

Biodiversity Week, which ran from 15 to 24 May, featured an engaging programme of events in our parks and libraries, encouraging people to connect with nature and learn more about local biodiversity.

More than 20 activities were held, including workshops, guided walks, talks and family-friendly events aimed at creating opportunities for people to explore biodiversity in both indoor and outdoor settings.

Across our libraries events focused on learning and practical engagement. Activities included nature-themed workshops, interactive science events and sessions exploring the traditional uses of

plants and local folklore. Programmes also supported inclusive participation, with sensory-friendly workshops and hands-on gardening sessions offering practical advice on enhancing biodiversity in everyday spaces.

In Ballyroan Library, a dedicated session on hedgehogs explored how small changes in gardens can support this protected species. The session highlighted simple actions such as creating nesting areas and improving connectivity between gardens to support movement and foraging.

Outdoor events played a central role throughout the week, with guided walks led by Park Rangers in Griffeen Valley Park,

Waterstown Park, Dodder Valley Park, Tymon Park and Rathfarnham Castle Park. These walks provided opportunities to learn about habitats, wildlife and the role of local green spaces in supporting biodiversity.

Evening events also encouraged participants to experience nature in new ways. A bat talk and guided walk in Knocklyon Park introduced attendees to the behaviour and ecology of bats, using detectors to listen to their calls and observe them in flight.

The programme also highlighted the importance of smaller species and habitats. An insect talk and bug hunt encouraged participants to explore the role insects play in supporting wider ecosystems, with practical advice on actions such as creating

pollinator-friendly areas and allowing space for nature to thrive.

Additional events focused on water and wetland environments, including guided tours of the integrated constructed wetlands in Dodder Valley Park. A walk along the River Poddle wetland in Tymon Park demonstrated how flood alleviation infrastructure can also function as a nature-based solution, supporting biodiversity while improving water management.

Biodiversity Week continues to play an important role in promoting awareness and encouraging local action, showing how everyday choices can support wildlife and contribute to healthier, more resilient communities.



Climate Leadership



New Mechanical Services depot in Palmerstown

Construction of a new mechanical services depot is under way and is expected to be completed within 12 months.

The new depot will allow staff in this workstream to relocate from existing facilities in Deansrath and Ballymount to a purpose-built site in Palmerstown, located adjacent to the Salt Barn. The consolidated facility is designed to support more efficient operations while providing modern working environments.

Energy efficiency is a central feature of the development, with the building incorporating high-performance systems, solar photovoltaic panels to generate renewable energy and upgraded equipment to support safe and efficient maintenance of the council's fleet.

The design also includes sustainable drainage systems to manage surface water on site, reducing runoff and contributing to environmental protection. Foul water will be managed through a dedicated on-site percolation system, supporting compliant and sustainable wastewater management.

In preparation for the continued transition to an electric fleet, the depot has been designed with future capacity in mind. A new electrical substation will provide the infrastructure required to support electric vehicle charging and the use of EV-suitable maintenance equipment.

Once completed, the depot will support improved operational efficiency while contributing to long-term sustainability and decarbonisation objectives under our Climate Action Plan.

Public consultation on proposed Kilcarbery junction upgrade in Clondalkin

A public consultation is under way on proposals to upgrade the junction at Old Nangor Road, Upper Nangor Road and Cherrywood Villas in Clondalkin, with a focus on improving safety and accessibility for all road users.

The proposed scheme aims to address the current lack of pedestrian and cycle crossing facilities at the junction, enhancing connectivity and supporting safer active travel options. Planned improvements include the introduction of traffic signals on all approaches, along with dedicated pedestrian and cycle crossings. The design also incorporates protected cycling infrastructure within

the junction to support safer movement through the area.

The consultation is being carried out under Section 38 of the Road Traffic Act 1994 from 11 May to 15 June 2026. Details of the proposals are available to view on our public consultation portal

Submissions and observations may be made online or in writing during the consultation period. All feedback received will be considered and will form part of a chief executive's report which will be presented to elected members for consideration.



Quality Housing



Rebalancing of social housing rents for greater investment in housing stock

Our current Revenue Budget, adopted by elected members last November, recognised the need for additional income through an updated differential rent scheme to sustainably maintain and improve our social housing stock.

Proposed amendments to rents have been informed by a detailed review of tenant household incomes, local and national rents, and future housing maintenance requirements.

In particular, the recent Local Government Audit Service VFM Report on Local Authorities Differential Rent Schemes demonstrated that, despite our higher maintenance costs and

increasing future requirements, rents charged by SDCC were generally lowest of all local authorities nationally across a range of different household sizes and incomes.

Data from the LGAS report shows that during 2025 some households in South Dublin were being charged rents that were an average of 55% less than similar households in similar properties in other Dublin local authority areas which is neither sustainable nor equitable.

Separately, local councillors have highlighted some instances where households with incomes in excess of social housing thresholds were paying

a disproportionately higher percentage of their income on rent which equally needed to be addressed.

The revised rent scheme, under which tenant household incomes will start being reassessed from 1 July 2026, provides consistency for households with updated rents of up to 12.5% of net household income, ensuring that rents correspond with tenants' ability to pay. Average rents for households in social homes under the new scheme are expected to be approximately €346 a month.

The scheme also features new measures to support low-income households ensuring that rents remain fair, proportionate and reasonable, including:

- Maximum €40 weekly charge on income from subsidiary earners
- Removal of €3 fixed weekly additional charge
- €10 weekly rent discount for persons age aged 65+ with state pension income only
- Weekly discount of €2 for each dependent child

Adjustments to the council's rental income are essential to fund projected investment of over €49m for planned maintenance work in our current three-year capital programme. This work will enhance living conditions and home energy efficiency for tenants while being sustainably funded from equitable and affordable rents.



Quality Housing



Communities benefitting from estate management initiatives

Our estate management team continues to work with tenants, residents' associations and community groups in estates to deliver practical improvements that enhance local areas and support stronger communities.

This year a budget of €220,000 has been allocated for estate initiatives and upgrades, including tenant-led improvement projects such as community planting, gated laneway cleansing and painting programmes.

Community planting projects deliver benefits that go far beyond improving the appearance of an area. By working

together on these programmes, residents can build stronger connections, encourage inclusion and cooperation, and foster a greater sense of pride in their neighbourhoods.

As part of the current planting programme, locations identified for planting include Quarryvale, Moorfield, St Finian's, Harelawn, Balgaddy, Kilcarrig, Cushlawn, MacUilliam, Brookview, Bawnlea Estate, Ardmore, Killinarden Estate and Springbank. Planting is expected to begin this month.

Planting was recently completed at Kilcronan, Arthur Griffith and

Whitechurch estates.

Our Housing Officers carry out ongoing inspections of gated laneways in our communities and schedule cleansing works where needed. Cleansing works were completed in a number of areas including Arthur Griffith Park, Deansrath, St. Aongus, Tymonville, Airlie Heights, Lealand, Lindisfarne and Moorfield. Works at Tymon North Grove are expected to be completed this month.

If you notice a build-up of overgrowth or rubbish in a gated laneway in your area, please contact the Estate Management Team and we will arrange an inspection.

Walls within estates are also inspected and added to our painting schedule. 12

areas have been identified for the current schedule, and works are expected to commence later this month in areas including Russell Lane, Russell View, Cushlawn Park, Cushlawn Way/Dale, Brookview Avenue, Fortunestown Way, Bawnlea, Killinarden Estate, Drumcairn Drive, Kilmartin Green, Glas Beag and Russell Meadows.

We also provide advice and support to residents' groups and elected members on estate improvements in council estates. If you would like to discuss possible local projects with the team, please contact us on 01-414 9000 or email estmgt@sdublincoco.ie.



Quality Housing



Community Engagement on Proposed Development at Rathcoole

We have started a programme of community engagement before submitting our Part 10 planning application to An Coimisiún Pleanála for the proposed housing and community facilities development on council-owned land at Rathcoole. The aim is to make sure local views are heard and considered as the design proposals are developed.

The engagement process includes several elements: a focus group with local Transition Year students and an online public survey that is open to everyone. The

survey invites people to express interest in taking part in further focus groups. This approach is designed to gather views from different parts of the community and help shape the proposed development.

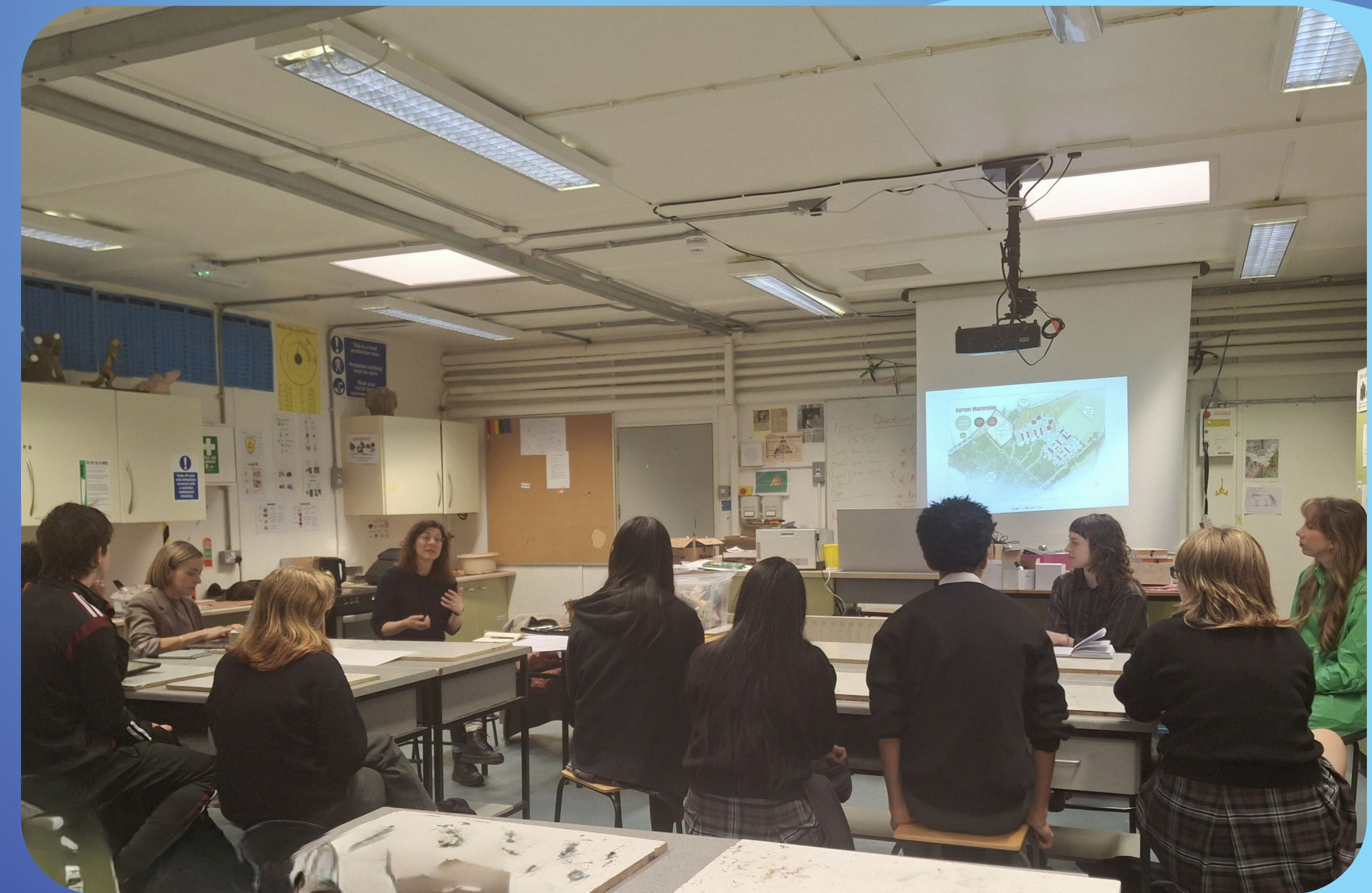
A dedicated focus group was recently held with Transition Year students from Holy Family Community School. This gave young people in the area a chance to share their views directly. Their input is important in helping to plan a neighbourhood that is inclusive, sustainable and suited to future generations.

At the same time, an online survey has been created and promoted through our social media channels and local networks to gather feedback from the wider Rathcoole community. The survey asks people for their views on the proposed development, including local priorities, opportunities and concerns, so that this feedback can help inform the design before the Part 10 application is submitted.

As part of the survey, people were also invited to register their interest in

attending additional focus groups, both online and in person, which are planned for mid-June. These sessions will provide more opportunities for local people and other interested stakeholders to contribute to the design and consultation process.

The findings from this engagement process will be brought together in a report and carefully considered as the development proposals are refined before the Part 10 planning application is submitted later this year.



Quality Housing



Information talks supporting Age Friendly Housing

Our Housing Allocations Team recently delivered our first series of Age Friendly housing information talks in Lucan Library and Tallaght Library for older people (55+) interested in learning more about housing options as they age. The talks focused on rightsizing with information on housing options that may better match their current circumstances and future needs.

Attendees received practical guidance on the benefits of moving to more manageable and accessible homes, with a focus on supporting independence, wellbeing and continued connection to local communities. The sessions also highlighted the features of age friendly homes, including accessibility, energy

efficiency and proximity to local services. A key highlight of the event was a guided tour of the recently developed Age Friendly development at Somerton, Lucan, Co. Dublin, which includes 68 purpose-built one- and two-bedroom homes. This gave participants an opportunity to view the high-quality accommodation at first hand and to gain a better understanding of the layout and design features that support comfort, safety and wellbeing.

Feedback from attendees was very positive, with many welcoming the practical information provided and the opportunity to ask questions while exploring a real-life example of age friendly housing.



A Thriving Economy



Focus on City Edge in latest Dublin Economic Monitor

City Edge, one of Ireland's most significant regeneration projects, will feature in the upcoming Dublin Economic Monitor, as the project progresses from strategic planning towards delivery.

Developed as a partnership between SDCC and Dublin City Council, City Edge aims to transform approximately 700 hectares of west Dublin into compact, well-connected neighbourhoods. Over time, the project has the potential to deliver up to 40,000 homes and support 75,000 jobs, contributing to long-term sustainable growth across the region.

The article in Dublin Economic Monitor highlights the transition from vision to implementation, with a strong focus on compact growth, transport-oriented development and reduced reliance on private car use. These principles align with wider objectives to support sustainable communities, enhance connectivity and

deliver high-quality urban environments.

The Dublin Economic Monitor is a joint initiative by the four Dublin local authorities to track the capital's economic development quarterly by providing insightful data and insights, and to launch its latest report, a panel discussion will take place on 10 June at Work IQ looking at the City Edge project. The session will include contributions from Eoin Burke, our Director of Planning & Transport, Andrew Archer from Systra and Professor Pete Lunn of the ESRI, with Professor Lollie Mancy delivering a keynote address and chairing the discussion.

The event forms part of ongoing engagement to support the development of City Edge and to contribute to wider discussion on Dublin's sustainable economic and spatial future.

Bí Gnóthach Primary Schools Enterprise Awards

Well done to all the South Dublin schools who took part in the Bí Gnóthach Primary School Student Enterprise Programme this year with South Dublin Local Enterprise Office!

Bí Gnóthach Student Enterprise Programme gives 5th and 6th class pupils a taste of the world of business and entrepreneurship through free resources, educational enterprise workshops, and the chance to create and set up their very own businesses in their school. Over 400 primary school students from 8 schools around the County, participated in the programme. The County Final was held in the Maldron Hotel, Tallaght on Wednesday 27th May June 2026 with over 180 pupils in attendance.

The pupils displayed their business projects and explained to the judges how they come up with their business idea and how they made their products and sold them to their fellow students and within their communities.

The event included an award ceremony where the winners received certificates and prizes presented by the Mayor Cllr Pamela Kearns.

The overall winning project on the day was Gaelscoil Chluain Dolcáin for their project Cistín Cupa.

Other winners on the day were:

- Best Sales: Sacred Heart SNS, Tallaght for their project Sacred Heart Sellers
- Best Report: St. Mary's BNS, Lucan for their project Splat Logistics
- Best Interview: St. Dominic's NS, Tallaght for their project Soul Sisters
- Best Stand: Scoil Santain, Tallaght, for their project Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
- Most Sustainable: Scoil Treasa, Firhouse for their project Hot Spots
- Best Branding: St Martin De Porres, Tallaght for their project Dino Direction
- Most Innovative: Holy Rosary Primary School, Tallaght for their project Free Mood
- Most Enterprising School award went to Scoil Treasa from Firhouse.

There was lots of fun activities, singing and dancing at the event and a great day was had by all!

To take part in September's Student Enterprise Programme, simply contact South Dublin's Local Enterprise Office at info@leo.sdublincoco.ie

Mayor with participants at Student Enterprise Awards



Students from St. Mary's BNS, Lucan



Student Enterprise Awards Best Branding - Dino Direction



Student Enterprise Awards Most Enterprising School - Scoil Treasa Firhouse



Overall winner - Cistin Cuppa



Most Sustainable Winner - Hotspots



Most Innovative Winner - Free Mood



Best Interview Winner - Soul Sisters



A Better Place



Review of Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Eastern and Midland Region

A stakeholder meeting was held in May between the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly and SSDCC to discuss the RSES Review process.

What is the RSES? The RSES is a statutory planning document that supports implementation of the National Planning Framework (NPF) and government economic policy. The new RSES will operate over a 10–20 year horizon and must be materially consistent with the NPF, National Marine Planning Framework and relevant planning policies.

The RSES identifies settlement patterns and transport strategies, strategic employment and retail locations, climate adaptation and mitigation, infrastructure provision, environmental protection, regional scale facilities (third-level education, healthcare, sports),

landscape, and flood management.

Key New Additions under the Planning and Development Act 2024

Regional Renewable Energy Strategy must identify specific onshore wind and solar capacity allocations per local authority, aligned with national targets specified in Table 9.1 of the NPF.

Coordinated Area Plans (CAPs) required where settlements cross more than one local authority boundary, with designated lead and associate authorities and governance structures.

Economic Development aligned with the Action Plan on Competitiveness and Productivity. The RSES will now include full integration of the Regional Enterprise Plans.

Implementation & Delivery a new statutory requirement to set infrastructure priorities, funding sources, cross-sectoral actions, and monitoring arrangements.

Legislative Changes
The Planning & Development (Amendment) (No. 2) Bill 2025 is due to be published end of May and enacted July 2026. Key changes impacting the RSES will include the designation of towns with a population of 10,000+ as Key Towns, providing a timeline for the review process of the RSES, and including areas of focus within the RSES.

For the Eastern and Midland Region, the number of Key Towns will increase from 11 existing to 26 in total. Within the MASP area, the number of Key Towns will increase from 3 existing to 8 in total.

Current Status & Timeline
Completed pre-draft public consultation stage (26th March – 22nd May 2026). Technical workshops with key stakeholders will be established in early summer. A Director's Report is due at the Regional Assembly meeting on 10th July 2026, with the draft RSES targeted for public display by the end of 2026. The next full RSES review is not expected until 2034/2035.

Input Requested from Local Authorities
Residential growth and Transport Orientated Development sites, strategic employment and retail locations, decarbonising zones, regional-scale facilities (health, education, sports), planned physical and social infrastructure (of scale), potential CAP locations, large-scale regeneration sites.



A Better Place



St Edmundsbury Hospital

A Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID) application has been submitted to An Coimisiún Pleanála for a new mental health hospital at St Edmundsbury Hospital in Lucan. The proposal, submitted under Section 37E of the Planning and Development Act 2000, relates to a site of approximately 8.1 hectares, which includes Protected Structures. It seeks a ten-year permission for a development of approximately 19,251 square metres. The plans include a 200-bed adult mental health facility, a 14-bed adolescent unit, refurbishment of historic buildings and associated site works. These works include open space provision, access upgrades and supporting infrastructure.

An Environmental Impact Assessment Report has been submitted as part of the application. The proposal will be

assessed by An Coimisiún Pleanála as the competent decision-making authority, and full details are available on its website.

As part of the process, the planning authority is required to prepare a report under Section 37E outlining its views on the likely environmental effects of the proposal and on the proper planning and sustainable development of the area. Before submission, the Chief Executive must present this report to elected members, who may attach recommendations by resolution. These recommendations are then included in the report submitted to An Coimisiún Pleanála.

The Chief Executive's Report is due to be presented at the July Council meeting.

Public consultation under way on proposed Brittas scheme

Public consultation is now open on proposals for a Traffic Calming and Urban Renewal Scheme along the N81 through the village of Brittas, supporting improvements to road safety and the local environment.

The scheme is being developed in partnership with Transport Infrastructure Ireland and the Kildare National Roads Office. It aims to introduce traffic calming measures to reduce vehicle speeds through the village, improve pedestrian safety and reduce the risk of road traffic incidents. The proposals also include upgraded bus stops with new shelters to enhance public transport access.

In addition to safety measures, the scheme presents opportunities to improve the public realm within the

village. Proposed enhancements include measures to strengthen the village core, improve connectivity for the local community and reflect the transport history of the area. Sustainable urban drainage features and small-scale green spaces are also being considered where appropriate.

The consultation is being carried out under Section 38 of the Road Traffic Act 1994 and is open from 21 May to 18 June 2026. Plans and supporting information are available to view online on the Council's public consultation portal [here](#).

Submissions and observations received during the consultation period will be considered and will form part of the Chief Executive's Report on the process.



A Better Place



Kiltipper Park Phase 2 opens with enhanced facilities

Phase 2 works at Kiltipper Park were officially marked on Monday 25 May, with Mayor Cllr. Pamela Kearns joined by local councillors, and staff including Colm Ward, Chief Executive, and Teresa Walsh, Director for Climate Action.

Kiltipper Park is located on the southern edge of the county, where suburban areas meet the foothills of the Dublin Mountains. The park is a popular destination for walking and running, offering views of the city and surrounding landscape. The Dublin Mountains Way also passes through the park, running alongside the River Dodder and continuing towards the Bohernabreena Reservoir and the wider mountain network.

The completion of this phase represents a significant enhancement of the park's facilities. Works include the extension of the existing car park, upgrades to

footpaths and improvements to the northern pedestrian entrance, supporting better access for visitors. A new sports pitch has also been developed, with associated drainage works to ensure long-term usability.

Additional improvements include the installation of accessible picnic tables and landscaping enhancements designed to support biodiversity and improve the overall environment. These upgrades contribute to a more inclusive and welcoming space for visitors.

The project was supported through funding from the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht under the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme, as well as funding from the Department of Culture, Communications and Sport through Sports Capital Grants.

Dog warden service expanded to strengthen public safety and welfare

Our dog warden service has been expanded, with staffing levels increasing from two to four following a review of dog control operations and additional supports provided by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

The increased capacity recognises the growing and more complex role of local authorities in managing dog control. Dog wardens play an important role in promoting responsible dog ownership, ensuring compliance with legislation and supporting the safety and wellbeing of our communities.

The service is supported by administrative staff who assist with the delivery of dog control functions, helping us to provide a responsive and efficient service. Dog wardens respond to a wide range of issues, including complaints relating to stray and nuisance dogs, inspections to ensure compliance with licensing requirements and the investigation of incidents involving dangerous dogs. The service also maintains a visible presence and supports operations carried out by An Garda Síochána where required and promotes awareness of dog welfare and responsible ownership.

The expansion of the service strengthens enforcement of the legislation for control of dogs while supporting a consistent and proactive

approach to dog management.

The dog warden service can be contacted by telephone on 01 414 9213 or by email at dwarden@sdblincoco.ie. While further information, including guidance on responsible dog ownership, is available at www.sdcc.ie



Connected Communities



Lucan Greenway Phase 1A opens in Griffeen Valley Park

The first phase of the Grand Canal to Lucan Urban Greenway was officially opened on 8 May in Griffeen Valley Park, marking a positive step towards enhancing walking and cycling infrastructure.

The new greenway extends for more than three kilometres from the Grand Canal at Adamstown through Griffeen Valley Park, connecting onwards towards Lucan. The route improves access to key local amenities and supports safer, more sustainable travel options for residents, schools and visitors.

Phase 1A includes a section of greenway linking the Grand Canal at Adamstown to the Lucan Bypass overbridge. The scheme features a four-metre-wide shared walking and cycling path, improved entry points and new road crossings designed to enhance connectivity and accessibility.

The route provides direct links to four local schools, Lucan Leisure Centre and facilities within Griffeen Valley Park.

The project also includes environmental enhancements, with more than 100 trees planted along the route, alongside new areas of native meadow. These elements contribute to improved biodiversity and support a more natural and attractive setting for users.

The scheme was delivered with funding support from the National Transport Authority and forms part of wider efforts to expand active travel infrastructure. A further phase of the project is planned, which will complete the overall route and connect the Grand Canal to the Royal Canal through Lucan, creating a continuous corridor for walking and cycling.

Junior Safety Forum inspires next group of student leaders

The final meeting of the Junior Safety Forum for the academic year took place on 22 May in the Council Chamber, bringing together sixth class representatives and incoming fifth class students who will take part in the programme from September.

The event marked the conclusion of a year of student participation, teamwork and community engagement. During the meeting, sixth class students reflected on their experiences and shared how participation in the forum had strengthened their confidence, awareness and sense of responsibility within their communities.

A highlight of the event was the launch of an anti-social behaviour awareness video developed by the students. The video delivers a clear message on the impact of behaviours such as anti-social behaviour, littering and the misuse of e-scooters, showing how these actions affect individuals and local communities.

Through the development of the project, students demonstrated strong teamwork, creativity and a commitment to making a positive contribution. The video encourages others to consider the impact of their actions and to play an active role in creating safe and respectful communities.

For incoming fifth class students, the event provided an introduction to the Junior Safety Forum and an insight into the opportunities available through participation. The work and achievements of the outgoing group highlighted the value of the programme and the difference young people can make in their communities.

Students joining the forum in September will have the opportunity to develop new skills, build confidence and contribute to projects that address important community issues. The programme encourages collaboration, participation and active engagement in promoting safety and respect.

Thanks were extended to all students and teachers for their commitment throughout the year, along with partner agencies for their continued support in delivering the programme.

The Junior Safety Forum continues to support young people in becoming informed, active and responsible members of their communities, building on a strong foundation of engagement and achievement.

Connected Communities



Local Community Safety Partnership public meeting

The South Dublin Local Community Safety Partnership held its first public meeting on Thursday 14 May at Tallaght Stadium, bringing together local residents, community representatives and stakeholders, each offering their perspectives on community safety priorities. The strong turnout reflected a high level of interest in the work of the partnership and the importance of community involvement in shaping local priorities and responses.

A key focus of the meeting was the introduction of the Local Community Safety Partnership framework and its role in addressing community safety issues. Attendees had the opportunity to meet partnership members, learn more about its objectives and engage directly on a range of issues affecting their communities.

Round-table discussions provided an open and inclusive environment for

meaningful engagement. Participants were encouraged to share their experiences, raise concerns and contribute ideas on local safety priorities. The format supported constructive dialogue and ensured that a wide range of perspectives could be heard.

The meeting was characterised by a positive and collaborative approach, with community members, agencies, elected representatives and stakeholders engaging openly and respectfully. This shared commitment to partnership working underpinned discussions and highlighted a strong focus on improving outcomes for communities.

Feedback gathered during the event will inform the development of the partnership's work programme, ensuring that it reflects the local needs and priorities. The level of engagement and contribution provides a strong foundation for the next phase of work.

National Voter Registration Day supports civic participation

National Voter Registration Day was supported through a registration drive at Parthalán Place in Tallaght on 30 April, encouraging people to check, update or register their details in advance of future elections and referendums.

The event recorded 151 visitors, with 98 new voter registrations completed on the day. Attendees also used the online platform Voter.ie to review or update their registration details, supporting the overall aim of maintaining an accurate and up-to-date electoral register.

National Voter Registration Day highlights the importance of voter registration and promotes awareness of the need to keep

details current, particularly where changes of address may affect eligibility and electoral records.

The campaign is led by local authorities in partnership with Government Departments and community organisations. A key focus is to make registration more accessible through Voter.ie, which provides an online platform for checking, updating and creating voter registration records.

By encouraging people to review their details and register early, the initiative supports civic participation and helps ensure that individuals can take part fully in the democratic process.

Ar **Vótáil.ie** thú?

Tá ceart vótála ag gach cónaitheoir in Éirinn atá 18 mbliana d'aois nó níos sine

Is í www.vótáil.ie tairseach Bhaile Átha Cliath chun clárú le vótáil

Connected Communities



Africa Day celebrated in Tymon Park

Africa Day was celebrated on 23 May with a vibrant festival in Tymon Park, bringing communities together to recognise and enjoy African culture, heritage and traditions.

Delivered by the Local Authority Integration Team, the event featured a lively programme of performances on the main stage, including African singers, drumming workshops and dance sessions. The festival created opportunities for people to engage with and experience a rich and diverse cultural

programme in an open and welcoming setting.

A range of stalls offered traditional arts, clothing and samples of African cuisine, allowing attendees to explore different aspects of African culture.

The festival concluded with a celebration of music and dance, with performers and attendees coming together to take part in a shared performance that reflected the energy and diversity of the event.

Successful start to our summer events programme

Sunday 10 May and Monday 11 May saw Tumble Circus in association with the Civic Theatre deliver artistic performances in Parthalán Place and the new outdoor performance space in Corkagh park close to the Park House Café.

The events hosted as part of the Age and Opportunity national Bealtaine Festival, proved very successful with over 100 attendees enjoying the uplifting performances over the two days.

The first of this year's Tymon Summer Markets was held on Sunday 31 May and again proved to be very popular with 800 attending to enjoy the markets and range of family fun entertainment. A

further series of markets are scheduled for Sunday 21 June, Sunday 26 July and Sunday 30 August.

The markets offer the opportunity to sample a range of street food, crafts, artisan produce, and entertainment, providing all the ingredients for a fun-filled family day out. The market is located at the Castletymon Road entrance of Tymon park beside the playground.

Further details on all the markets and other events to be scheduled over the course of the summer will be available by staying tuned to the Council's website and social media channels.



Cultural Richness



Summer Events at SDCC Libraries

A wide range of events and activities is planned across SDCC libraries this summer, with programmes designed for children, families, teenagers and adults.

A vibrant programme will take place at Parthalán Place, beginning on Friday 6 June with events for Cruinniú na nÓg. Throughout the summer, the space will host lunchtime performances, pop-up library activities and a series of flagship cultural and community events, contributing to a lively programme of activity in the area.

Pride Month will be celebrated in our libraries this month with a series of events. The programme will begin with a digital exhibition in Clondalkin Library, delivered

in partnership with the National Library of Ireland, titled Living with Pride: The Photographs of Christopher Robson. Activities will continue throughout the month, concluding with participation by mobile libraries and library staff in the Dublin Pride Parade on Saturday 27 June.

During the summer months, libraries will also take part in the national reading initiative, Summer Stars. A broad programme of free events and workshops will be delivered, including visits from the National Travelling Dinosaur Museum in Ballyroan and Tallaght libraries. Additional activities include build-and-create sessions, drawing workshops, story times, STEAM classes for children and teenagers, LEGO-based storytelling, arts and crafts

sessions, junior book clubs and musical events for younger children.

Outdoor events will include a family bear hunt at Rathfarnham Castle inspired by the children's story We're Going on a Bear Hunt. Mobile libraries will also take part in a Summer Solstice Day event at Sean Walsh Park, delivered in partnership with Park Rangers, celebrating the recently installed Celtic mythology carvings.

The popular Mobile Libraries Park Days will begin on Wednesday 8 July and will run across several mornings each week throughout the summer. These sessions are popular with families, childcare groups and summer camps, with activities taking place in parks including Corkagh Park, Tymon Park, Airlie Park, Tandy's Lane, Jobstown

Park, Collinstown Park, Griffeen Park, Rathfarnham Castle and Waterstown Park.

National Heritage Week will take place from Friday 15 August to Saturday 23 August, with a programme of events scheduled across libraries for both adults and children. Highlights include a talk by Jim Herlihy on tracing Irish police ancestors on 18 August, and a talk by Joe Byrne on Old Trams of Lucan on 20 August at Lucan Library. A range of children's events, including storytelling sessions and traditional games, will also form part of the programme.

Details of all summer events are available through library social media channels or by visiting local library branches.



Cultural Richness



‘Nature Squared’ public art project begins community engagement

Artists Anne Cleary and Denis Connolly have begun a programme of community engagement as part of their Nature Squared public art project, a multi-strand initiative exploring freshwater biodiversity along the River Dodder through a combination of science and creative activity.

As part of the initial phase, the artists delivered two days of workshops with groups from Cheeverstown House and Transition Year students from St Mac Dara’s Community College. The sessions took place in Dodder Valley Park, where participants engaged directly with the natural environment through a series of hands-on activities.

Working in small groups, participants explored local biodiversity by recording plant species within defined areas, using a simple wooden frame to capture and study plant diversity. The workshops also included drawing, photography and print-making, using coloured inks

and plant materials collected on site to produce creative responses to the landscape.

Participants also began developing “herbarium art”, using natural materials gathered during the sessions to create artworks inspired by the biodiversity of the area. The process encouraged close observation of plant life while supporting creative expression and environmental awareness.

The project will continue throughout the summer, with further activities planned along the River Dodder. The work will culminate in a Science Week exhibition later in the year, bringing together the outcomes of both the artistic and scientific elements of the project.

Nature Squared has been commissioned as part of IN CONTEXT 5, the Public Art Programme, funded through the Per Cent for Art Scheme.

Todhchaí launched at The Digital Hub

Todhchaí, a new Irish-language enterprise support scheme, was recently launched at The Digital Hub by Dara Calleary TD, Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht. The initiative is designed to support entrepreneurs to build and grow businesses through Irish, from Clondalkin to the Aran Islands.

The programme is delivered in partnership between Gaeilge365, The Digital Hub and Údarás na Gaeltachta. It provides structured support through a Learn, Create, Launch model, helping participants develop business skills, build networks and connect with market demand for Irish-language services.

Gaeilge365 is a collaborative initiative of the four Dublin local authorities, working to promote the everyday use of Irish in communities, services and economic activity. Through this programme, SDCC supports the development of Irish as a living language in public life, encouraging creativity, participation and innovation at local level.

Participation in Todhchaí reflects this wider commitment, linking language development with enterprise and economic growth. By supporting businesses to operate through Irish, the programme strengthens opportunities for Irish speakers, expands the reach of services and contributes to a

more inclusive and diverse enterprise environment.

The development of Irish-language enterprise aligns with broader objectives around accessibility, community engagement and innovation. It also supports national priorities under the Official Languages Act, while contributing to a more connected and culturally vibrant county.

Todhchaí represents a practical step in supporting Irish-language use beyond traditional contexts, creating new pathways for business development while reinforcing the role of Irish in everyday social and economic life.



Cultural Richness



Relevant, Relatable and Radical – a new strategy for Rua Red

Rua Red launched its new Strategic Plan 2026–2032, Relevant, Relatable and Radical, marking an important milestone in the organisation’s development and setting out a clear vision for the next six years.

The strategy has been in development since May 2023, when the Board and staff of Rua Red began a process of reflection on the organisation’s evolution and future direction. A phrase that emerged during those early discussions, “we’re bursting at the seams”, captured the extraordinary scale of cultural activity taking place within the centre. With more than 230,000 visitors annually, an average of 778 daily users, artist studios, creative organisations, major commissions, exhibitions, performances, workshops, and community programmes all operating within the building, the phrase also prompted reflection on what could be achieved with additional space and expanded infrastructure in the years ahead. Over the following two years, extensive consultation took place with staff, board members, artists, stakeholders, centre users, and community partners, helping to shape a strategy grounded in diverse

perspectives and shared ambition.

At the heart of Relevant, Relatable and Radical are six strategic goals. These include strengthening Rua Red as a welcoming, human-centred organisation; commissioning ambitious new work that responds to contemporary issues; opening up access to new voices and audiences; providing artists with the support and conditions needed to create meaningful and ambitious work; deepening relationships with communities across Tallaght and South Dublin; and expanding facilities and infrastructure, including new studio spaces, artist accommodation, and wider arts infrastructure.

The strategy recognises that Rua Red is far more than a building. It is a living, evolving organisation shaped by the people who use the space. Rather than a document that sits on a shelf, the strategy will be revisited annually through reflection, review, and action planning, ensuring Rua Red remains dynamic, responsive, and forward-looking as it continues to grow its impact locally, nationally, and internationally.

President Connolly visits Rua Red

President of Ireland, Catherine Connolly, recently visited These Beautiful Men, an exhibition of new work by artist Brian Maguire at Rua Red.

Joined by the Mayor of South Dublin, Cllr. Pamela Kearns, chief executive Colm Ward, the artist Brian Maguire and members of the Rua Red board and staff.

The President was welcomed to the exhibition by curators Maolíosa Boyle and Jonathan Cummins, noting the importance of engaging with work that reflects lived experience and promotes understanding.

Since October 2025, Brian Maguire has been creating portraits of men temporarily residing in an International Protection Accommodation Services centre. The work focuses on individuals often underrepresented, offering a perspective grounded in visibility, dignity and personal experience.

The exhibition features 40 portraits displayed in Gallery One, alongside audio recordings in Gallery Two that share participants’ experiences and journeys to Ireland. Together, these elements provide a deeper understanding of the lives behind the artwork.



People First



Investing in our people

As a forward-thinking employer, SDCC fosters a culture of continuous learning and development for our people – whether they work in our office, outdoors or in our libraries.

Together with in-house training, coaching and mentoring, we encourage continuous learning and offer up to 100% funding with study and exam leave. Our Scheme of Assistance provides annual funding for further education courses, from Certificates in Local Government

Management and Public Procurement, to Professional Diplomas in Housing Studies, and Degrees and Master Degrees in Engineering, Financial Management and Library and Information Management.

Each year, SDCC employees start a new education journey funded by SDCC and our Scheme of Assistance. They invest their time at weekends and evenings to progress assignments, dissertations and prepare for exams. Now, at the end of

the academic year, we celebrate their commitment. We are also progressing applications for the 26/27 academic year.

Over the past three academic years, over 140 people have benefited from the scheme and many have progressed their careers within SDCC as a result. Current courses being completed

by our people include: Diploma in Human Resource Management; Certificate in Charity Law, Trusteeship & Governance; Certificate in Digital Mapping and Geographical Information Systems; Bachelors in Environmental Management; Professional Diploma in Project Management; Diploma in Graphic Design; and Masters in Strategy and Leadership.



County Matters



Foothills, Killinarden from housing delivery to community building

Foothills, Killinarden represents one of the most significant mixed-tenure housing developments currently progressing in the county. The official sod-turning on the 20 May marked the start of construction on a major new neighbourhood that will deliver 635 homes and a strong package of community infrastructure, reflecting a shared commitment by SDCC and our delivery partners to provide not just housing, but a sustainable and well-connected place in which people can live and thrive.

Housing Delivery

At the heart of the scheme is the delivery of 635 new homes in a mixed-tenure model that responds to a range of housing needs. This includes 372 Starter Homes for purchase, supported through the Affordable Housing Fund and made available at a minimum 15% below local market value, alongside 125 new social homes supported by funding

from the Department of Housing Local Government and Heritage. The balance of the development will be delivered for private sale, creating a tenure mix designed to support a balanced and inclusive neighbourhood.

The project represents over €90 million in State-supported investment and is a strong example of how coordinated action can accelerate delivery at scale. It also demonstrates the practical impact of national housing policy at local level, translating public investment into homes for first-time buyers, families and households in need of secure social housing. For SDCC, The Foothills is an important contribution to housing supply in Tallaght and a further indication of continued momentum in the delivery of social and affordable homes across the county.

Foothills, Killinarden will provide a mix

of two, three, and four bedroom homes, designed to the highest standards of energy efficiency and long-term sustainability.

Speaking at the sod-turning ceremony, Mayor of South Dublin, Cllr. Pamela Kearns, said the development was “a real step forward for the area” and highlighted that it will enable more people to put down roots in an established community close to schools and local services.

Tánaiste, Simon Harris TD, said the development shows what strong partnership can achieve, combining high-quality homes, new amenities and a sustainable neighbourhood built for the future. He also noted that 372 households will have the opportunity to purchase a new home at a significantly reduced cost, while 125 new social homes will provide secure, long-term housing for those who need it most.

Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, James Browne TD, described the development as being about “more than bricks and mortar”, emphasising the importance of creating sustainable, well-connected neighbourhoods with the services, amenities and green spaces that allow communities to thrive.

Community Building

A defining strength of The Foothills, Killinarden is that it has been planned as more than a housing scheme. It is being developed as a new neighbourhood with

the amenities and connections needed to support community life from the outset. The project includes significant open space and recreational provision, including a major public park, sports facilities, walking and cycling routes, crèche and a new community/sports facility in partnership with the local soccer club Sacred Heart FC that will help create opportunities for recreation, participation and social connection.

The design approach places a strong emphasis on connectivity, sustainability and quality of place. Located close to established schools, transport links, retail and other local services, the development will connect new residents into the wider Killinarden and Tallaght area. The integration of green space, active travel routes and community amenities within the overall scheme supports the creation of a healthy, accessible and attractive environment for existing and future residents alike.

This focus on community building is particularly important in the context of large-scale housing delivery. By bringing homes, open space, sports provision and community infrastructure forward together, The Foothills has the potential to become a strong and integrated neighbourhood from the earliest phases of occupation. In this respect, the development reflects a broader ambition not only to increase supply, but to create places where communities can grow, connect and flourish over the long term.

County Matters



Proposed County Development Plan variation issued

The Chief Executive's Report has been issued in respect of Proposed Variation No. 2 to the South Dublin County Development Plan 2022–2028, marking an important step in aligning the Development Plan with updated national planning policy.

The proposed variation arises from the revised National Planning Framework and the associated housing growth requirements guidelines issued

under Section 28 of the Planning and Development Act. These guidelines require planning authorities to update their Development Plans to reflect revised national housing targets, including an increase to 3,270 housing units per year for the county. They also require an assessment of the capacity and deliverability of existing zoned lands and, where necessary, the identification of additional lands to support future development.

As part of this process, the proposed variation includes the zoning of approximately 156.5 hectares of land for residential development, with an estimated housing capacity of around 7,324 units.

A total of 2,678 submissions were received during the statutory public consultation period. The report provides a detailed response to the issues raised and

outlines considerations relevant to the proposed variation.

The report is available to view on our website at www.sdcc.ie. It will be considered by elected members at special council meetings in June, where decisions will be made on whether to adopt the proposed variation, with or without modifications, or to reject it.



County Matters



Launch of “Beyond County Hall” Innovation Fund

Following provision made in the council’s budget for 2026, a new approach to supporting innovation is being introduced through the “Beyond County Hall” Innovation Fund, creating opportunities to test, develop and scale practical solutions that respond to real local challenges.

As the first initiative of its kind, the fund represents a shift towards a more collaborative and outcomes-focused model. It invites businesses, researchers and organisations to play an active role in shaping how innovation is delivered, with a focus on tangible benefits for communities.

With a total allocation of €250,000, the fund will support SMART pilot projects that identify specific challenges

and develop technology-led solutions to improve everyday life for residents, workers and visitors. These projects are designed to demonstrate how innovation can be applied in real-world settings, while supporting the development of more inclusive and responsive services.

Tallaght has been selected as the starting point for the initiative, with the aim of developing a SMART district that can support testing, learning and collaboration. As the county town, it provides a strong foundation, supported by existing infrastructure and a growing innovation ecosystem. This approach allows projects to be trialled and evaluated in a live environment before being adapted for wider application.

The pilot focus is central to the

long-term vision of the fund. Successful projects will be refined and scaled in future phases, ensuring that the benefits of innovation are shared more broadly and deliver lasting value.

A strong emphasis is placed on partnership and collaboration. The fund encourages engagement across the private sector, academia and public bodies, recognising that innovation is strengthened through diverse perspectives. For participating organisations, it provides an opportunity to demonstrate the real-world impact of new ideas and technologies, while contributing to meaningful improvements in areas such as community services, sustainable

mobility, digital infrastructure and environmental performance.

The process is now underway, with a pre-market consultation issued to engage with the market and gather initial insights from organisations. This will be followed by a formal tender process in the coming months, providing a clear pathway for participation in the programme.

The “Beyond County Hall” initiative offers a platform for collaboration, experimentation and shared learning, supporting the development of practical solutions that contribute to a smarter, more connected and more sustainable county.



County Matters



Investment in sports facilities

Ongoing investment in sports and recreation facilities is supporting the development of welcoming and accessible spaces for clubs, schools and residents in local communities to take part in sport and physical activity.

High-quality sports infrastructure plays an important role in supporting health, wellbeing and stronger local connections. As the county continues to grow, work is progressing to ensure that communities have access to a wide range of facilities that meet different sporting and recreational needs. This includes the delivery of new infrastructure alongside upgrades to existing amenities.

In recent years, sports capital grants from central government along with substantial funding by the council have supported improvements to a number of grass pitches in parks, including in Tymon Park, Glenaulin Park and Butler Magee Park. Funding has also contributed to the delivery of a new basketball court in Quarryvale Park as

part of wider park upgrades. Alongside these improvements, investment has been allocated for athletics track upgrades and to explore new facilities such as padel courts, expanding opportunities for people of all ages to take part in sport close to home.

The need for enhanced facilities reflects both population growth and the increasing impact of climate conditions on outdoor sports spaces. Periods of prolonged rainfall and dry weather can leave grass pitches unplayable for extended periods. In response, a Sports Pitch Strategy completed in 2020 identified the need for additional all-weather 3G pitches. Two pitches have already been completed at Airlie Park and Sean Walsh Park, a planning process is underway for a proposed pitch at Greenhills Park in the east of the county, and a number of further sites are currently under assessment. New development areas are also contributing to provision, with Clonburris set to accommodate a range of pitches, courts and fitness spaces, while

in Adamstown tennis courts, a cricket oval and playing pitches were completed.

Alongside pitches and play areas, there is a continued focus on providing the supporting facilities needed to maximise their use. The pavilion programme is a key part of this approach, supporting sports clubs, volunteers and community groups by providing essential infrastructure such as changing rooms and secure storage.

Following a review of the programme presented to councillors in April 2024, additional funding was approved to support an expanded delivery programme with €10million allocated in our current capital programme that will see new sports pavilions provided at multiple locations during 2026 and 2027, supporting a range of users and encouraging greater participation in sport and recreation.

Initial works are currently underway at Griffeen Valley Park and Corkagh Park, with both locations expected to be completed

during the year. Early stages of the programme were affected by challenging ground conditions and periods of significant rainfall, but these issues have now been addressed and progress is continuing.

With initial phases now well progressed, the next stage of the programme will focus on additional locations including Collinstown Park, Kilnamanagh Open Space, Griffeen Valley Park at Arthur Griffith Park, Tymon Park South and Sean Walsh Park. These sites will be progressed in a coordinated way, building on experience gained during the initial phase to support efficient delivery.

With investment now in place and delivery under way, this programme will strengthen the quality and availability of sports facilities and support active lifestyles, community participation and the long-term sustainable use of park infrastructure, ensuring that residents have access to high-quality spaces for sport and recreation now and into the future.



Finance Report

Billing	Arrears 31 Dec 2025	Budget 2026	Billed	Receipts/Credits	Arrears	% of Billed income
Commercial Rates	€11,192,587	€157,614,100	€159,869,319	€111,680,982	€59,380,924	
Housing Rents	€7,802,151	€42,547,400	€17,261,371	€17,362,147	€7,701,375	101%
Housing RAS Rents	€1,201,981	€2,315,500	€908,885	€894,282	€1,216,583	98%
Cash Receipts	Arrears 31 Dec 2025	Budget 2026	Billed	Receipts/Credits	Arrears	% of Budget income
Planning Fees	n/a	€1,110,000	n/a	€182,083	€0	16%
Fire Certificates	n/a	€450,000	n/a	€194,468	€0	43%
Parking Fees	n/a	€803,000	n/a	€306,330	€0	38%
Uisce Éireann	€91,652	€1,759,400	€128,990	€582,307	-€361,665	33%
	€20,288,371	€206,599,400	€178,168,565	€131,202,599	€67,937,217	

Debt Analysis - Social Housing Rent Accounts				Debt Analysis - Commercial Rates Accounts		
Category	Number	Amount	%	Category	Amount	%
No arrears	6,596	-€2,967,597	60%	Current	€49,600,055	84%
0-6 weeks	1,910	€391,426	17%	>1 year	€3,137,498	5%
7-12 weeks	429	€344,152	4%	>2 years	€1,886,608	3%
13-18 weeks	307	€400,008	3%	>3 years	€1,230,224	2%
19-24 weeks	220	€370,965	2%	>4 years	€1,034,987	2%
25-52 weeks	575	€1,764,027	5%	>5 years	€510,793	1%
1 - 2 years	462	€2,527,101	4%	2020	€63,045	0%
> 2 years	484	€4,871,292	4%	Pre 2019	€1,917,714	3%
Total	10,983	€7,701,374	100%	Total	€59,380,924	100%

Sod Turning at Foothills Killinarden



Local Community Safety Partnership meeting



Codema Lunch and Learn - Climate Action Week



Junior Safety Forum meeting



President Connolly visits Rua Red



Socials

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