SDCC

Comhairle Contae Átha Cliath Theas
South Dublin County Council

Chief Executive's Report

How we're creating greater opportunity for all

October 2026



Opera in the Park at Rathfarnham Castle



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



ISO 50001 Certification for Energy Management

We are changing how we manage energy across our buildings, facilities and services to improve efficiency, reduce consumption and support continuous improvement. A dedicated Energy Officer and Energy Management team are leading this work through a coordinated, organisation-wide approach, which has enabled us to achieve ISO 50001 certification—the international standard for energy management.

Working closely with our significant energy users, which include county hall, Clondalkin civic offices, fleet, leisure centres, public lighting, Tallaght Stadium, Rua Red, the Civic Theatre and our libraries, we developed an Energy Management System that provides a clearer understanding of energy use, identifies areas for improvement and helps us to monitor performance over time.

In simple terms, ISO 50001 is about understanding how energy is used and finding ways to improve efficiency over time. It provides a structured framework to help organisations manage energy more effectively and reduce waste.

Achieving certification required the development of new processes, regular reviews of energy performance and strong engagement from the teams responsible for the organisation's largest energy-consuming operations, which account for over 85% of our total energy consumption.

Achieving ISO 50001 is more than just earning a certification for the organisation - it demonstrates a commitment to reducing energy consumption, lowering carbon emissions and continuously improving energy performance as we work towards our wider climate action objectives.

Discover Energy-Efficient Homes with the NZEB Information Truck

We will be hosting a dedicated Near Zero Energy Building (NZEB) information truck from Monday 19 October to Friday 30 October. Residents will have a unique opportunity to explore how energy upgrades can make their homes warmer, more comfortable and more efficient. A dedicated retrofit information truck will visit Corkagh Park during the first week, where local schools will take part in sessions focused on NZEB fundamentals. During the second week, the roadshow will move to Tallaght Stadium, opening its doors to the wider community.

Residents will be guided through the key aspects of home retrofitting, including what retrofitting is, how to understand a Building Energy Rating (BER) report, and the most common retrofit measures available to homeowners. The truck will also highlight the benefits of improved energy efficiency and comfort, showcase renewable energy options, and explain the various grant pathways and supports that can help make upgrades more affordable. Whether you are considering small energy-saving improvements or planning a major home upgrade, this roadshow offers practical advice, expert guidance and the information needed to get started.

To learn more, visit sdcc.ie or keep an eye on our social media for further updates.





Circular Economy Day Brings Sustainability to Life in Fettercairn

Our largest Circular Economy Day to date, held on 19 August at Fettercairn Community and Youth Centre brought together residents, community organisations, volunteers and environmental advocates to support waste reduction and a more sustainable future.

Launching the event, Mayor Timmons highlighted the importance of community collaboration in driving positive environmental change in noting that “this event is about much more than repairing household items or swapping out old for new, today we recognise the incredible power of communities coming together for a shared purpose.”

The Mayor’s remarks captured the essence of the day, which focused not only on extending the life of everyday items but also on fostering a culture of reuse, repair and resourcefulness within local communities.

A major attraction was the busy Repair Café, where expert teams from The Rediscovery Centre and TOG Hackerspace put their exceptional skills to work helping restore approximately 100 household items. Throughout the day bicycles, vacuum cleaners, furniture, toys, garden tools and clothing were carefully repaired, much to the delight of owners eager to give treasured possessions a second life. The repair sessions demonstrated the practical benefits of the circular economy, showing how repairing and reusing items can reduce waste, save money and conserve valuable resources.

The event also encouraged sharing and exchanging. Bags of clothing found new homes through swap initiatives, while plants were exchanged among gardening enthusiasts, ensuring that useful items continued their journey rather than ending up as waste. These simple but effective actions highlighted how small changes in everyday habits can contribute to a more sustainable and resource-efficient society.

Event participants were further inspired by a stunning display of wildlife photography curated by the Friends of Tymon community group. Featuring images captured across the county, the exhibition celebrated local biodiversity and reminded attendees of the importance of protecting and preserving natural habitats for future generations.

Outside, the Fettercairn Grow Dome became a hub of learning and inspiration. Demonstrations led by the Cheeverstown Group and the Fettercairn Community Shed showcased practical growing techniques, sustainable gardening and creative approaches to reusing materials. Their enthusiasm and expertise encouraged visitors to explore new ways of incorporating circular economy principles into their own homes and communities.

Volunteers from Knocklyon Network Tidy Towns, Rathfarnham Village Tidy Towns, Friarstown Allotment Group and Ballyroan Gardening Group also contributed to the event, delivering hands-on demonstrations that showed how local initiatives are making a positive difference.

The event showed that the circular economy is not an abstract concept but a practical approach that can benefit everyone. From repairing broken household items and exchanging unwanted goods to growing food sustainably and celebrating local biodiversity, each activity offered a tangible example of how resources can be kept in use for longer while strengthening community ties.

We extend our sincere thanks to everyone who participated, volunteered, exhibited or otherwise helped make the inaugural Circular Economy Day a resounding success.

The enthusiasm, generosity and expertise on display throughout the day reflected a strong sense of community spirit. By embracing simple actions that reduce waste and encourage reuse, communities are helping to create a greener, more resilient future one repair, one swap and one sustainable action at a time.

Climate Leadership



Community Leaf and Green Waste Composting Pilot Programme

Local communities are working together to tackle climate challenges to protect the environment and create more sustainable neighbourhoods. One inspiring example of such collective action is the Community Leaf and Green Waste Composting Pilot Programme, which commenced in July with a series of in-person seminars and practical workshops delivered by Composting Ireland.

This innovative initiative is providing volunteers from nine Tidy Towns and community groups with the skills, knowledge, equipment and valuable hands-on experience needed to turn leaf and green waste into valuable nutrient-rich compost, vermicompost and leaf mould. By doing so, communities are helping to reduce waste, lower emissions, embrace sustainable practices and protect the environment. The nutrient-rich materials produced through the programme is creating a valuable resource that can be reused in local community spaces to support planting and biodiversity projects, contributing to our Circular Economy and Sustainability objectives.

Recognising the environmental and economic benefits of a more sustainable approach to leaf and green waste management, the programme combines environmental education with practical action and strong community participation. A comprehensive nine-week training programme, delivered by a Composting Ireland facilitator, supports participating groups through every stage of the composting journey.

The response from participating Tidy Town and resident association groups in Lucan, Rathfarnham, Tallaght, Knocklyon and Clondalkin has been extremely positive, highlighting the enthusiasm within local communities to embrace sustainable practices and contribute to environmental solutions. Through shared learning and collaboration, volunteers are not only gaining new skills but are also helping to foster a stronger sense of community ownership and environmental stewardship.

A key strength of the pilot programme is its strong educational focus. Volunteers are participating in a series of evening and weekend workshops, site visits and practical training sessions covering site preparation, composting techniques, project management and the design of dedicated composting systems. These include green waste composting bays, leaf cages and wormeries specifically tailored to each location. This hands-on approach is ensuring that participants gain the confidence and expertise required to manage successful composting systems long into the future.

Beyond the immediate environmental benefits, the programme aligns closely with Sustainable Development Goals “SDG11: Sustainable Cities and Communities” and “SDG13 Climate Action” and our Climate Action objectives. By reducing organic waste, encouraging resource reuse and promoting circular economy principles, the initiative demonstrates how local action can contribute meaningfully to broader sustainability targets.

We continue to support participating groups throughout the implementation phase, helping to ensure the pilot develops into a sustainable and successful long-term model. The knowledge gained through the project will help inform future community composting initiatives and has the potential to inspire even greater participation.

As communities work together to transform what was once considered waste into a valuable environmental asset, the Community Leaf and Green Waste Composting Pilot Programme is proving that small local actions can deliver significant environmental benefits. Through education, collaboration and commitment, local volunteers are helping to build greener, more resilient communities for the future.

Quality Housing



St Ronan's Crescent – Age Friendly Homes

Nine new age-friendly homes at St Ronan's Crescent in Clondalkin have been completed, providing high-quality housing to support older people to live independently in their own community. The development responds to the growing need for age-friendly accommodation and represents another step in expanding housing choices for older residents.

The scheme includes five one-bedroom houses and four two-bedroom apartments arranged around a secure communal courtyard. Located close to shops, healthcare services, public transport, parks and other community facilities, the homes have been designed to support independent living while helping residents stay connected to the people and places that matter most to them.

All homes achieve an A2 Building Energy Rating (BER), providing comfortable, energy-efficient accommodation and helping to reduce household energy costs. The development also includes landscaped communal spaces, improved pedestrian links and public realm enhancements that create an attractive and welcoming environment for residents and visitors alike.

A key aim of the project is to support ageing in place by offering appropriately sized homes that allow older residents to remain in familiar surroundings and maintain established social connections. The courtyard layout encourages both independence and social interaction, balancing privacy with opportunities to engage with neighbours and the wider community.

We are committed to increasing the supply of age-friendly housing and providing a broader range of housing options to meet the needs of our ageing population. This will also support rightsizing initiatives and free up underoccupied social housing so that it can provide new homes for families on the waiting list.

The allocation process has begun for the new homes. Allocations will be made to eligible applicants from the council's rightsizing, homeless and social housing lists in line with our Allocation Scheme.

Housing customer centre helping residents access services

The Housing Customer Centre provides an accessible and dedicated point of contact for a wide range of housing services. So far this year, the centre has welcomed 5,667 visitors.

Customers can submit applications, receive guidance and access information in one convenient location. Facilities include interactive screens, private meeting rooms and a dedicated family area, creating a more comfortable and customer-focused experience. Feedback from visitors has been positive, particularly in relation to improved access to information, greater privacy and the quality of service provided.

Additional support is available for visitors who may need assistance. An AsIAm-approved visual guide helps people prepare for their visit and supports accessibility. A fidget box containing sensory tools is also available for people with additional sensory needs.

The centre forms part of a wider customer service and digital transformation programme, making it easier for residents to access housing services in a way that suits their needs.

The Housing Customer Centre is open Monday to Friday from 9.30am to 12pm and from 2pm to 4pm.

Housing services are also available online 24 hours a day through the Housing Online Portal. Residents can access Choice Based Lettings, apply for social housing support, report a maintenance issue, view rent account balances and transactions, and apply for private housing grants.

By combining face-to-face support with convenient online services, residents can choose the option that best suits their circumstances. Customers are encouraged to register for Housing Online, as increased use of the portal will help us improve service delivery by enabling requests and applications to be managed more efficiently, providing quicker access to information and allowing staff to focus support on service users who need additional assistance.

Quality Housing



Housing adaptation grants support independent living

Older people and people with disabilities are continuing to make their homes safer, more accessible and more comfortable through three housing grant schemes. So far this year, 385 grants have been approved, with an average value of approximately €11,000, helping households carry out essential improvement works that support independent living.

The three schemes provide financial assistance for home adaptations, mobility improvements and essential repairs, ensuring more people can continue living safely and independently in their own homes.

Housing Adaptation Grant for People with a Disability
The Housing Adaptation Grant for People with a Disability supports people with physical, sensory or intellectual disabilities, as well as those with mental health difficulties, by funding works that make their homes better suited to their needs.

Eligible works may include access ramps, downstairs toilet facilities, stairlifts, accessible showers, wheelchair access improvements, sensory rooms and other necessary adaptations.

Households with an annual income of up to €37,500 may qualify for funding of up to 100% of the approved cost of works, subject to a maximum grant of €40,000. Assistance is available on a sliding scale for households with annual incomes of up to €75,000.

Mobility Aids Grant
The Mobility Aids Grant supports smaller-scale works that help address mobility difficulties within the home.

Eligible works may include the installation of grab rails, level-access showers, access ramps, stairlifts and other minor adaptations that make everyday living safer and easier.

The grant is available to households with an annual income of less than €37,500 and may cover up to 100% of approved costs, subject to a maximum grant of €8,000.

Housing Aid for Older People
The Housing Aid for Older People scheme supports people aged 66 and over whose homes require essential repairs or improvements.

Funding may be provided for structural repairs, re-roofing, rewiring, drylining and other works needed to improve the condition of the home and maintain safe living standards.

Applicants with an annual household income of up to €37,500 may qualify for funding of up to 100% of the approved cost of works, subject to a maximum grant of €10,700. Assistance is available on a sliding scale for households with annual incomes of up to €75,000.

Information and application forms are available on our Housing Grants webpage at sdcc.ie.

Residents can contact the Private Grants Team by phone on 01 414 9373 or by email at hgrants@sdublincoco.ie.



Quality Housing



Keep your heating working this winter

As temperatures drop, a few simple checks can help keep your home warm and your heating working efficiently throughout the winter.

Check that your thermostat is working properly and set between 18°C and 21°C. Testing your heating before winter arrives can help identify problems early. Turn on your boiler and check that all radiators heat evenly. If a radiator is cold at the top, it may need bleeding to remove trapped air.

If you use prepayment gas or electricity meters, make sure they have enough credit. If your home has gas central heating, check that the gas meter is switched on. Without credit, your heating will not work.

Fresh air also plays an important role in keeping your home healthy. Open windows for five to 10 minutes in the morning and afternoon to reduce moisture and condensation, and wipe away any condensation with a dry cloth. Do not block air vents, as they help maintain good air quality.

If your heating stops working
You can report a repair through **Housing Online**. If you are an older tenant, a JAM Card holder or need help making a request, call Housing Maintenance on 01 414 9393.

Outside office hours, if there is a serious risk to life or significant risk to a property, call the emergency service on 01 457 4907.

When reporting a fault, have your rent account number, address, contact number, heating system details and any warning lights or error codes ready. Please let us know if anyone in the home is older, vulnerable or needs additional support.

Repairs for vulnerable tenants may be prioritised. In some circumstances, SDCC may also assist with repairs that would normally be the tenant's responsibility, depending on the household's needs.

If you smell gas or suspect carbon monoxide, leave the property immediately. Call 999 or 112 if anyone is in immediate danger and contact Gas Networks Ireland's 24-hour emergency line on 1800 20 50 50. Do not switch electrical appliances on or off.

More information on heat pumps and reducing condensation is available on the **SDCC website.**



A Thriving Economy



National Ploughing Championships

Sean Clinton of Sweet King represented Local Enterprise Office (LEO) South Dublin at the National Ploughing Championships this year as part of the Local Enterprise Village. LEO also supported NAZE, Cookie Do and The Crochet Dolls at the event.

Attracting almost 300,000 visitors, the championships gave participating businesses a major platform to reach consumers, retailers, wholesalers, distributors and potential partners nationwide. Sweet King showcased its confectionery and gourmet popcorn products to a large national audience.

The Local Enterprise Village showcased more than 30 LEO-supported businesses from across Ireland. It also featured a Business Advice Hub, a Google AI exhibition area and Enterprise Europe Network supports, giving exhibitors access to expert advice, digital resources and international growth opportunities.

Over the three days, Sweet King engaged directly with customers, tested products and gathered real-time feedback. The event also provided an opportunity to network with retailers, distributors and other industry contacts, helping the business strengthen relationships and explore new routes to market.

Sean Clinton's participation reflects the growth and ambition of our LEO supported businesses. High-profile trade events such as the National Ploughing Championships help businesses reach new customers, increase sales opportunities and build resilience in domestic and export markets.

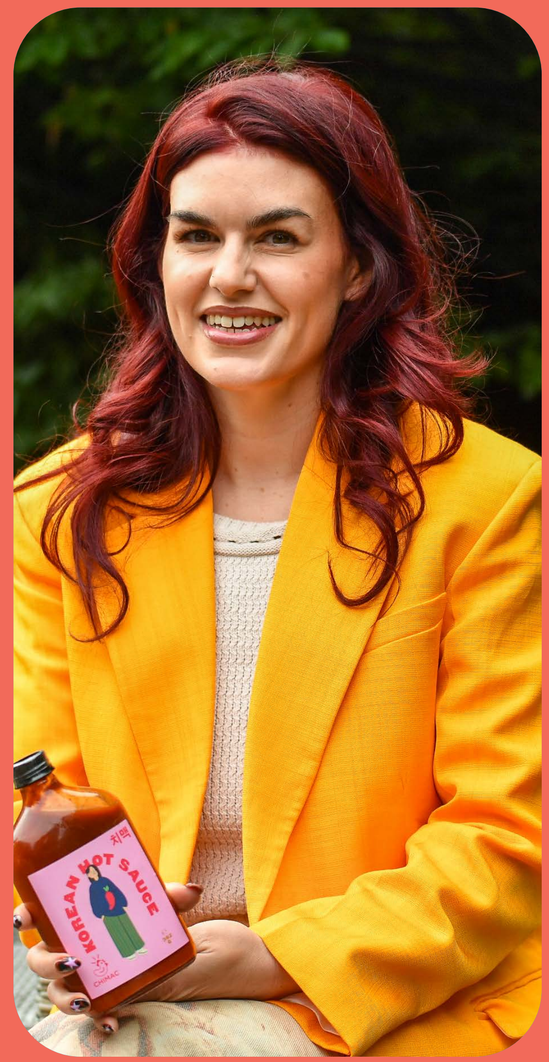
Meet the Entrepreneur event at The Address, Citywest

We hosted a Meet the Entrepreneur event on 16 September at The Address Citywest Hotel. The event attracted a full room, reflecting strong interest from the local business community, start-ups and aspiring entrepreneurs.

A highlight of the morning was an engaging interview between host Lorraine Allen and Sofie Rooney, Co-Founder of Chimac and Ambassador for our National Women's Enterprise Day this year. Sofie shared her entrepreneurial journey, from identifying a gap in the market and launching Chimac to building a distinctive brand and growing the business into an award-winning restaurant group. She spoke openly about the realities of starting and scaling a business, managing risk, overcoming setbacks and adapting to market change. She emphasised resilience, innovation, customer insight and a strong company culture.

She also outlined how the mentoring, training, networking and advice provided, supported Chimac's early growth. Her progression from a LEO client to an Enterprise Ireland client illustrated the support available to ambitious businesses as they develop and scale.

The audience engaged actively during the interview and Q&A, asking questions about growth, customer acquisition, overcoming challenges and balancing the demands of entrepreneurship. Sofie's honest, relatable approach offered practical advice and inspiration to early-stage and established business owners.



A Thriving Economy



Local Food Producers Attend Lunch! Show in London

Dublin's Local Enterprise Offices supported a group of local food producers to participate in a part-funded Dublin Food Chain trade mission to the Lunch! Show in London last month. Representing LEO South Dublin were Happy Hour Foods (Angelica Oliveira), Treats by Sylvia (Sylvia Kennedy), Kahuna Pops Ireland (Ian Downes) and The Cheesy Kiss (Sarah Walsh).

The trade mission combined attendance at the Lunch! Show, one of the UK's leading food-to-go and foodservice exhibitions, with a programme of targeted retail visits and market exploration activities. Participants visited key retail and food destinations including Waitrose & Partners Canada Square, Whole Foods Market at Water Street, Mercato Metropolitano Wood Wharf and took part in a guided food innovation tour of Canary Wharf. These visits provided first-hand insight into current retail trends, consumer preferences, product positioning, merchandising strategies and emerging innovations within the UK food sector.

Throughout the day, participating businesses engaged directly with exhibitors, buyers, distributors and industry professionals, gaining valuable market intelligence on purchasing trends, packaging requirements, pricing structures and evolving consumer demands. The opportunity to observe products in-market allowed businesses to benchmark their offerings against international competitors and identify opportunities for innovation, differentiation and growth.

The trade mission provided a valuable opportunity for our participating food producers to assess export potential within the UK market while also gaining a broader understanding of opportunities across European and international markets. Businesses explored potential routes to market, engaged with prospective retail and distribution partners and developed a clearer understanding of the regulatory, operational and commercial requirements associated with exporting.

In addition to strengthening their export knowledge, participants established new contacts with buyers, distributors, retailers and fellow food producers, creating opportunities for future collaborations and commercial development. The market intelligence, industry connections and practical insights gained throughout the visit will support future business planning, enhance export readiness and assist participating companies in identifying new growth opportunities.

The programme supports the wider objective of increasing the competitiveness of our food sector by helping indigenous food businesses build export capability, access new markets and achieve sustainable long-term growth. It also highlights the value of collaborative regional initiatives in providing SMEs with direct exposure to international market opportunities and global industry best practice.



A Better Place



Firhouse Road Active Travel Improvement Scheme

The Firhouse Road Active Travel Improvement Scheme is nearing completion with works expected to finish this month. The scheme will significantly improve active travel infrastructure and road safety along Firhouse Road, from east of the Killinniny Road junction to east of the Knocklyon Road junction; on Ballycullen Road and Castlefield Avenue between Firhouse Road and Knocklyon Road; and in the residential areas of Parkwood, Oldbawn Way and St Dominic's Road.

The scheme was progressed under Section 38 of the Road Traffic Act 1994 following a public consultation in 2023. Murphys Civil Engineering Ltd were awarded the contract for this €5 million project.

The improvements are a key element of the Cycle South Dublin Network, and finalise the Firhouse Road Active Travel route, which links Oldbawn Road to the Dodder Greenway and onwards to the City Centre. It also provides interconnectivity between Dodder Greenway and the D24 Neighbourhood Network.

Significant safety improvements have been delivered at junctions on the Firhouse Road. Improved pedestrian crossing facilities have been provided at Scoil Carmel and the community centre on Firhouse Road, and improved pedestrian linkages have been provided to Dodder Valley Park.

In addition, full road resurfacing has commenced on the road's bus route which will improve public transport journey quality in the area.

Bus Stop Enhancement Programme

Construction has commenced to deliver 11 bus stops under the Bus Stop Enhancement Programme (BSEP), comprising three hardstanding installations and eight new bus shelters.

In addition, we are seeking approval from the National Transport Authority (NTA) for a further nine bus stops. Subject to NTA approval and the availability of the NTA appointed bus shelter contractor, these additional bus stops are targeted for delivery this year.

The supply, delivery and installation of bus shelters are managed exclusively by the NTA through its appointed contractor and remain subject to the contractor's programme and resource availability. While local civil works can progress independently, the completion of bus stop infrastructure requiring shelters will be aligned with the NTA contractor's delivery and installation schedule.

In parallel, the design development of additional bus stop improvements is progressing, with further schemes expected to be submitted for approval in the coming days. This programme will continue to enhance public transport infrastructure, improving accessibility, passenger comfort, and the overall customer experience across the network.

Launch of Saggart-Rathcoole Heritage Trail App

Launching this month, the new Saggart-Rathcoole heritage trail app will create a fun and interactive way for local residents and visitors to explore the rich history all around them.

Following the success of heritage trails in Tallaght, Clondalkin and Rathfarnham, the introduction of the Saggart-Rathcoole trail promises an engaging experience connecting the place we see and live in today with the history and heritage of its past.

Covering a 5km route with eight heritage stops, the app combines audio storytelling and guided navigation to bring local landmarks, historic sites and the area's development to life — making it easy to listen, wander and discover something new along the way.



A Better Place



Public Lighting Maintenance Contractor Appointed

Following a competitive procurement process, Al Read Electrical Ltd. (AREL) were appointed as the contractor for the Public Lighting Maintenance Contract. The contract has a duration of up to six years and an estimated annual value of €5 million.

The contract will support the ongoing management and development of the public lighting network and includes responsibility for routine maintenance, the delivery of the LED public lighting upgrade programme, the upgrading of existing lighting columns and infrastructure, the construction of new public lighting schemes, and the identification and repair of lighting faults and outages. We have been actively working to reduce the number of outages across the county. Since the beginning of the year, we have reduced the total percentage of outages from 3% to 1.2% and we are on track to maintain this target.

The contract was formally signed at County Hall by Chief Executive Colm Ward and Philip Read, Director of AREL.

AREL is a long-established family-run business with over 45 years' experience in the electrical sector, who we have worked in partnership with for many years. They have extensive knowledge of the local public lighting infrastructure and have consistently delivered a high standard of service.

The appointment of AREL will support the continued maintenance and improvement of our public lighting network, helping to ensure a safe, reliable and energy-efficient service for local communities, businesses and visitors.

Town & Village Renewal Scheme

We are now inviting expressions of interest for projects under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme. This scheme supports the revitalisation of towns and villages through projects that stimulate economic and social regeneration, enhance public spaces and strengthen town centre vitality. It also includes a new pilot Urban Town Initiative. This initiative will support towns and villages within larger urban and metropolitan areas, including our own.

Community groups, business and local stakeholders can submit project ideas that will drive town centre regeneration, support town/village centre plaza development, develop green spaces/recreational amenities in town or village centres, enhance streetscapes, include an emphasis on climate action elements, support the provision of infrastructure (e.g. public realm works, service provisions, canopies etc.) to facilitate town or village centre markets (e.g. farmers markets, open-air markets, local trader markets, artisan markets or similar), upgrade/refurbish community centres and bring vacant and derelict buildings back into use as multi-purpose community spaces.

Expressions of interest(EOI) forms and full details are available at sdcc.ie. EOI's should be submitted by 5pm on Friday, 20 November.

Neilstown District Enhancement

Neilstown District Centre Enhancement project has been awarded €2.1 million under the Town and City Regeneration Investment Fund (TCRIF).

We continue to progress a design for the scheme, which includes improved pedestrian connectivity, upgraded public spaces, additional planting and SuDS measures, enhanced lighting, new seating and exercise equipment, and the provision of accessible, family-friendly, age-friendly and EV parking bays.

An outline of proposals were presented to the community at three workshops in September and were generally well received, with broad support for the proposed improvements. While some concerns were raised regarding potential anti-social behaviour, local Community Garda Sgt. Eoin Beatty expressed support for the scheme, highlighting the positive impact that similar projects have had in increasing activity and reducing anti-social behaviour in other areas.

It is now intended to commence the statutory public consultation under the new provisions for Local Authority Development in the Planning and Development Act 2024 in November.



Bawnogue District Centre officially opened

The Bawnogue District Centre was officially opened last month by Mayor Timmons. The scheme was designed to improve accessibility, sustainability and the overall public realm within the district centre. Kilwex Ltd. was appointed as contractor and construction was completed in September.

The approved works included enhancements to the street layout, traffic-calming measures, improvements for walking and cycling, new landscaping, Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS), accessible and family-friendly parking, and improved connections to St. Cuthbert's Park. The scheme also incorporated solar-powered public lighting along pedestrian routes.

Improvements include a redesigned car park, enhanced pedestrian facilities, widened public realm areas, seating and landscaping, and rain gardens that provide both visual amenity and sustainable surface water management.

The project has created a safer, more accessible and attractive district centre, improved connectivity and provides high-quality public spaces for residents, businesses and visitors.

Tallaght Village Enhancement

Tallaght Village Enhancement Scheme has been awarded €7.5 million under the Town and City Regeneration Investment Fund (TCRIF), providing significant support for the delivery of the project. As a condition of the funding competition, construction of the scheme must commence before September 2027.

The scheme was approved by the elected members at the June County Council meeting. Since then, the design team has continued to progress a number of important elements of the project, including proposals to reflect Tallaght's history and heritage throughout the public realm. The planting and placemaking strategy has also been further developed, with a focus on long-term maintenance requirements and resilience to extreme weather conditions, including prolonged dry periods. Work is also ongoing to examine further car parking options within the village area.



Connected Communities



European Week of Sport

Our Active South Dublin team was delighted to be part of European Week of Sport, delivering and supporting different events that activated local public spaces and encouraged people of all ages and backgrounds to get active, connect with their communities, and enjoy the benefits of physical activity.

A highlight of the week was the Family Sports Day for Migrants in Rathcoole Park, which welcomed migrant families living in the county for a fun-filled day of sport and recreation. Participants enjoyed taster sessions in cricket, rugby, disc golf, GAA, soccer, athletics and basketball, while younger children made use of the dedicated play area. The event provided a welcoming and inclusive opportunity for families to try new sports and healthy activities.

The Fun Glow Run in Dodder Valley Park brought an exciting atmosphere to the park as families and community members took part in a 2-kilometre evening run. With music, glowing accessories, and plenty of laughter along the route, the event showcased how public spaces can be transformed into places for fun, healthy entertainment, and community connection.

Participants also enjoyed the Mindful Walk in Dodder Valley Park; an inclusive event designed for all ages and abilities. Combining gentle movement, nature, and wellbeing, the walk encouraged people to slow down, connect with their surroundings, and experience the positive impact that being active outdoors can have on both physical and mental wellbeing.

We were also pleased to support the Corkagh Park Disc Golf Scramble, organised by Disc Golf Ireland. Taking place at Corkagh Park, home to Ireland's largest disc golf course, the event highlighted the growing popularity of the sport and encouraged more people to give it a try.

Rathfarnham Village Festival celebrates community spirit

Rathfarnham Village came alive on Sunday, 27 September, as residents and visitors gathered for the Rathfarnham Village Festival. The family-friendly event featured a packed programme of entertainment and activities, bringing people of all ages together in the heart of the village.

Visitors enjoyed live music, dance performances, a magic show, face painting, hair wrapping, community displays, classic cars, the Sensory Bus and the Library Bus. Dublin Fire Brigade also attended, helping to ensure there was something for all ages to enjoy.

Local musicians and performers entertained the crowds from the main stage, showcasing emerging talent and adding to the vibrant atmosphere. Community groups, local businesses and volunteers also played an important role in making the day a success and highlighting the strong sense of community that exists in Rathfarnham.

The festival was a wonderful celebration of local culture, creativity and community spirit, leaving attendees with lasting memories and reinforcing Rathfarnham Village as a welcoming and vibrant place to live, work and visit.



Connected Communities



Another Infrastructure - IN CONTEXT public art project by the Drop Table ensemble

Our IN CONTEXT Public Art Programme is underway, with several events and workshops delivered by the artist ensemble Drop Table. They have centred their community-engaged public artwork by working with North Clondalkin Library and people from the local communities in the Ronanstown, Collinstown, and Rowlagh areas.

Drop Table's seven artists are working on the theme of "Another Infrastructure (AI)", exploring the environmental and social impact of data infrastructure. In an area with many data centres, the artistic team is focusing on how communities can build infrastructures of care, data, knowledge and food.

Drop Table hosted a programme of talks, workshops, and food on 29 August at North Clondalkin Library, in a one-day event 'Another Infrastructure (AI): art, environment, data centres & us'.

There was fantastic engagement with the local community taking part in discussions and workshops including gaming in the LGBT+ community, crochet and poetry, and a talk on the intertwined histories of libraries, data centres, knowledge and information. The event was well attended, and the final round-table discussion of the day was attended by Mayor Timmons.

The project continues with further meetings, workshops and artistic engagement with members of the local community including the Women's Collective, the Stairlings Collective for LGBT+ teenagers, and the North Clondalkin Library Crochet Circle. Each artist is developing a project that will be presented as part of an exhibition and event at North Clondalkin Library early next year.



Cultural Richness



Bronntanas- a celebration of Irish language and culture

Bronntanas brought communities together through a programme of Irish language and cultural events that took place from 14 September to 4 October. The annual festival provided opportunities for people of all ages and abilities to engage with the Irish language in a welcoming and creative environment, supporting the continued promotion of Irish as a living language within our communities.

Over the three weeks, more than 70 free events were held across Dublin, with a varied programme taking place throughout the festival. Activities included art workshops, plays, live music, water sports and storytelling, offering something for every age group and interest.

As a central part of the festival, a 21-Day Family Challenge took place. Each day, families received a small, practical activity that encouraged them to integrate Irish into their daily lives, such as using a few new words at the dinner table, playing a short game in Irish or reading a story in Irish.

By combining language, arts, music, storytelling and creative participation, residents were encouraged to experience Irish in accessible and enjoyable ways, regardless of their level of fluency. It continued to increase opportunities for residents to use and experience Irish in everyday community settings. The festival also highlighted the important role that libraries and cultural services play in promoting language, creativity, inclusion and lifelong learning.

The strong engagement across the programme shows the continued appetite for Irish language and cultural activities.





Energy Performance Contract

We are taking important steps to reduce energy use, lower carbon emissions, and improve the comfort and efficiency of our largest energy consuming public buildings through an Energy Performance Contract (EPC) programme.

An EPC is a partnership where a specialist energy company (the Energy Service Company or ESCO for short) design and deliver energy-saving upgrades to specific buildings and provide a contractual guarantee that the expected energy savings will be achieved. Effectively we are procuring the targeted output rather than just the equipment or technology, as may be the case with capital project delivery. This helps reduce financial risk while ensuring value for public money. The aim is to reduce energy consumption, cut greenhouse gas emissions, and support Ireland's climate action targets while improving public buildings for staff, visitors, and the wider community.

We have now signed an EPC with Alternative Heat for a period of 10 years to progress energy efficiency and decarbonisation upgrades across County Hall and Library, the Civic Theatre, Clondalkin Civic Offices, Clondalkin Leisure Centre, Tallaght Leisure Centre, and Rua Red. These six buildings account for approximately 29% of our energy demand. Planned improvements include efficient decarbonised heating systems, renewable energy technologies such as rooftop solar PV, upgraded lighting, and better building controls. Across the six buildings roughly 1400m2 of solar PV is planned for installation. The EPC requires the ESCO to achieve a 50% reduction in energy consumption and a 50% reduction in the carbon emissions generated cumulatively across the six buildings. €8.5m in capital expenditure has been committed to the project, with 50% of this being provided by SEAI's Pathfinder Funding.

Planning approval was obtained at the meeting of the council in September, whereby the installation of heat pumps and solar PV was approved. Extensive site visits, surveys and inspections have been carried out, and the designs are progressing. Independent Energy Efficiency design services have been procured to further assess and interrogate designs and planned works. The works will commence on site this year, with most works anticipated to be completed mid-way through next year.

The signing of this contract reflects many years of development to realise its implementation. It is considered an essential part of meeting the statutory targets set out in the Climate Action Plan, particularly with the replacement of fossil fuel heating systems.

For local residents, the benefits are clear: lower energy bills for public buildings, reduced environmental impact, and more sustainable community facilities. By investing in energy efficiency today, we are helping to create a greener, more resilient South Dublin for future generations.





Halloween in South Dublin

Halloween is here, with a packed programme of free family-friendly events, entertainment and community activities inspired by the traditions of Samhain.

From live performances and creative workshops to spooky walks and colourful displays, residents and visitors will have plenty of opportunities to celebrate Halloween throughout the month.

Two flagship events will once again form the centrepiece of this year's programme. Tallaween takes place on 30 October in Parthalán Place, Tallaght, while Spookdalkin returns to Brú Chrónáin, Round Tower Visitor Centre, Clondalkin on 1 November. Both events will feature live entertainment, roaming performers, music, themed installations, workshops, food vendors and immersive Halloween experiences for all ages.

Spookdalkin will also include elements inspired by Día de Muertos (Day of the Dead), bringing colourful displays, themed performances, creative workshops and family activities that complement the traditions of Samhain and celebrate cultural diversity.



A wider Samhain fringe programme will bring Halloween-themed events to libraries, community centres and other local venues. Families can enjoy storytelling sessions, spooky heritage walks, arts and crafts workshops, fancy dress discos and a range of seasonal activities in their local communities.

Alongside the entertainment programme, communities are being encouraged to take part in the popular Bulbs Not Bonfires initiative through our Social Credit Scheme. The initiative rewards participating groups with pollinator-friendly spring flowering bulbs, helping to create colourful public spaces while promoting a cleaner and greener alternative to traditional bonfires. Last year, over €6,000 was invested in bulbs for communities, with a similar level of support planned again this year. Further information is available from sdcc.ie

Community groups can also avail of free access to Ballymount Civic Amenity Centre for materials collected during community clean-ups between 16 October and 21 November 2026.

The initiative supports cleaner neighbourhoods and helps remove materials that may otherwise be used for bonfires. Last year, 216 passes were distributed to participating groups.

Finance Report

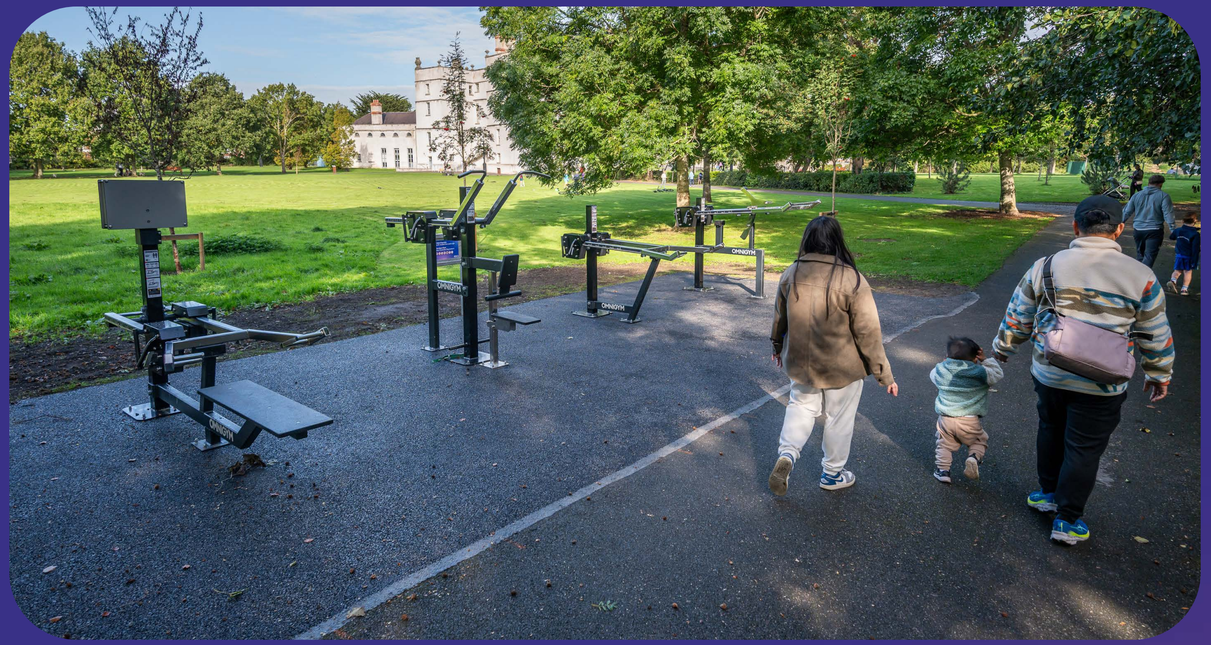
Billing & Collection Report @ 25 September 2026:

Income Type	Arrears 31-Dec-25	Budget 2026	Billed	Receipts /Credits	Arrears	% Income
Billing:						
Commercial Rates	€11,192,587	€157,614,100	€163,767,571	€143,641,967	€31,318,191	88%
Housing Rents	€7,802,151	€42,547,400	€32,293,635	€32,259,379	€7,836,407	100%
Housing RAS Rents	€1,201,981	€2,315,500	€1,682,650	€1,627,345	€1,257,285	97%
Cash Receipts:						
Planning Fees	n/a	€1,110,000	n/a	€585,042	€0	53%
Fire Certificates	n/a	€450,000	n/a	€565,293	€0	126%
Parking Fees	n/a	€803,000	n/a	€612,583	€0	76%
Uisce Éireann	€91,652	€1,759,400	€2,214,599	€2,138,469	€167,782	122%
Overall Totals	**€20,288,371**	**€206,599,400**	**€199,958,454**	**€181,430,078**	**€40,579,665**	**88%**

Social Housing Rent Accounts			
Category	**Number**	**Amount**	**%**
No arrears	6,606	3,036,569	60%
0-6 weeks	1,941	451,482	18%
7-12 weeks	454	377,825	4%
13-18 weeks	273	371,232	2%
19-24 weeks	178	353,077	2%
25-52 weeks	586	1,887,373	5%
1 - 2 years	463	2,603,809	4%
> 2 years	472	4,828,177	4%
Total	**10,973**	**€7,836,407**	**100%**

Commercial Rates Accounts		
Category	**Amount**	**%**
Current	22,915,545	73%
>1 year	2,289,893	7%
>2 years	1,592,975	5%
>3 years	1,101,167	4%
>4 years	978,269	3%
>5 years	495,415	2%
>6 years	57,254	0%
>7 years	1,887,673	6%
Total	**€31,318,191**	**100%**

New Omnigym equipment at Rathfarnham



Bronntanas - Finn and the Giant at North Clondalkin Library



New football pitch at Jobstown park



New footpath installation at Cookstown Way



Planting Demonstration at SDCC allotments



Socials
Facebook
X
Instagram
YouTube

Website
www.sdcc.ie

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