

SDCC

Comhairle Contae
Átha Cliath Theas

South Dublin
County Council

Chief Executive's Report

How we're creating greater opportunity for all

July 2026



New Mayor and Deputy Mayor elected at AGM



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



Roll-out of public EV charging stations begins

We are working with our regional EV provider to deliver fast EV charging facilities across Dublin, making it easier for residents and visitors to charge their vehicles while using local services and amenities. 15 sites have been identified in our car parks, parks, libraries, district centres and leisure facilities as part of this rollout of new EV charging infrastructure.

Electricity connection agreements are progressing, with connection offers secured for 11 sites and installations have now been completed at several

locations, including Tandy's Lane, Adamstown Park, Dodder Valley Park (R114), Dodder Valley Old Bawn Pavilions and Corkagh Park. These locations are awaiting final energisation by ESB and are expected to open for public use after this month.

Further locations will be delivered as the programme rollout continues. All sites are being developed with accessibility considerations, supporting a more inclusive approach to EV charging infrastructure and cleaner transport.

Environmental awareness initiatives and circular economy event

Our Environmental Awareness team is progressing a number of initiatives to promote sustainable environmental practices, cleaner communities and greater awareness of Ireland's transition to a circular economy. These include the Gum Litter Education Campaign, delivered in partnership with the Gum Litter Task Force, and the Anti-Litter Poster Competition displayed on Big Belly Solar Bins. Together, these activities help to encourage local environmental responsibility, support improved waste prevention and management and strengthen public consciousness of sustainability.

As part of this work SDCC will host a free public Circular Economy event on 19 August in Fettercairn Community and Youth Centre. This will provide a community-based opportunity to share knowledge on waste prevention, reuse and sustainability. The event will include repair cafés for household items, a clothing swap and a plant exchange. These activities are designed to support waste prevention by keeping items in use for longer through repair, sharing and reuse.

Participants are invited to bring bicycles, furniture, clothing and household electrical and electronic items for repair guidance. Experts from the Rediscovery Centre and TOG Hackerspace will

provide support in textiles, furniture, electronics and bicycles, with a focus on repair, restoration, redesign and upcycling.

If you want to refresh your wardrobe and save money while reducing textile waste, then bring your clothing items where they can be swapped for "new-to-you" clean garments. For every item you bring you get a token to shop the rails for some fabulous finds to add to your wardrobe.

A community plant swap will also take place providing participants with an opportunity to exchange indoor and outdoor plants, cuttings, seeds and gardening books while supporting local engagement on biodiversity and sustainable gardening.

Save the date for this circular economy event and keep an eye on our social media for further updates.



Climate Leadership



Over €1.2 million allocated to community climate action

Funding totalling €1,202,599 has been awarded for 27 projects under Phase 2 of the Community Climate Action Programme.

The funding will support a broad range of local community organisations to deliver practical climate action projects. Supported organisations include addiction services, social enterprises involved in local food growing, community centres, sports clubs and women's collectives, reflecting the important role of local groups in advancing climate action at community level. Representatives of the organisations attended County Hall on 3 July, to mark their successful

funding applications with our Climate Action team also providing guidance and support for project delivery.

The programme is funded by the Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment and builds on Phase 1, through which 26 community projects delivered climate actions valued at over €1.1 million. These community-led projects make an important contribution to delivery of our Climate Action Plan and progress towards 2030 climate targets.

More information on our Community Climate Action Programme is available at www.sdcc.ie

Funding announced for local anti-dumping initiatives

Our Waste Enforcement and Licensing team has secured funding from the Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment under the 2026 Anti-Dumping Initiative. This funding will support the delivery of several targeted programmes to address illegal dumping and support cleaner communities. A mattress amnesty which will operate from July to September will provide householders with an opportunity to recycle mattresses free of charge, while complimentary recycling of waste electrical and electronic equipment will also be available to help householders dispose of unwanted items safely and responsibly.

The funding will also support temporary

CCTV monitoring in a selected remote location which will assist in the prevention and detection of fly-tipping, support enforcement activity and contribute to the protection of the local environment.

A dedicated clean-up project will also be undertaken in an area west of Clondalkin which has experienced repeated illegal dumping. The objective of this project is to restore the site and improve its condition for the benefit of the local community.

Details of dates and locations for the mattress amnesty will be announced on www.sdcc.ie and through our social media.



Climate Leadership



New Pollinator Action Plan launched

The Pollinator Action Plan was launched by then Mayor Cllr Pamela Kearns on 18 May. The plan reaffirms our commitment to embedding biodiversity and pollinator protection in the management of public lands.

The plan which runs until 2030, builds on several years of progress and sets out a programme of action to support pollinators while enhancing the quality, resilience and enjoyment of public spaces. Our management of parks, open spaces and road verges has significantly evolved and been enhanced by our alignment with the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan.

Approximately 210 hectares of meadows are now actively managed throughout South Dublin, significantly exceeding our original projections. These meadows

are managed through ecological cutting schedules, allowing native wildflowers to bloom and set seed and improving food sources and nesting habitats for bees, butterflies, hoverflies and other pollinators with ongoing surveys showing year-on-year improvements in biodiversity.

Our pollinator-friendly actions extend beyond meadow management:

- Since 2017, all parks, playgrounds and public gardens have been glyphosate-free, with chemical use reduced across our operations.
- More than 7.5 million pollinator-friendly bulbs have been planted across over 90 locations.
- We have mapped 1,720 kilometres of hedgerows, with over 400 kilometres actively managed as ecological corridors on our lands.

- A hedgerow restoration programme is being rolled out following successful local trials.
- In parallel, the mini woodland programme has delivered over 44,000 native trees in partnership with schools and communities.

These measures are also delivering climate benefits, with reduced mowing practices estimated to prevent 116 tonnes of CO2 emissions each year. The Pollinator Action Plan sets out 30 targeted actions to be delivered by 2030, with the objective of embedding pollinator-friendly principles across planning, design, capital projects and day-to-day operations. The plan also includes a strong emphasis on public engagement and shared ownership. Actions such as pollinator signage, online resources, park ranger-

led walks and communications activity support public understanding of visible management changes, including reduced mowing. National recognition through Pollinator Awards for Tymon Park and Waterstown Park further reflects the quality and consistency of the Council's approach.

The Pollinator Action Plan represents a practical commitment to protecting biodiversity, improving habitat quality and strengthening ecological connectivity across local communities. It supports a long-term vision for a connected and resilient county where pollinator- and biodiversity-friendly habitats support nature, strengthen climate resilience and enhance quality of life for residents, businesses and visitors. See the full plan online at www.sdcc.ie.



Quality Housing



€17.5 million funding for infrastructure at Killinarden Foothills

Funding totalling €17.5 million has been secured under the first phase of the Housing Infrastructure Investment Fund programme to support the delivery of new homes at Killinarden Foothills. This significant allocation forms part of a multi-annual national investment strategy aimed at unlocking serviced land and accelerating housing delivery at scale.

The funding will enable the provision of critical infrastructure to support the Killinarden Foothills residential and community scheme, which will deliver approximately 635 new homes, alongside a new community facility,

high-quality public realm, and a strategic spine road. The development will provide a balanced tenure mix of affordable, social and private housing, directly addressing identified housing demand within the county.

Phase 1 infrastructure works are already underway, with the delivery of the community centre, playing pitches, and a substantial portion of the public realm expected to be completed next year.

This investment marks a key milestone in our continued commitment to achieving both national and local housing objectives. By enabling the delivery of a

significant number of homes on serviced lands, the project will make a meaningful contribution to regional and national housing supply targets while supporting sustainable urban growth.

A central benefit of the infrastructure works is the integration of the new development with existing neighbourhoods. The scheme will include connected street networks, enhanced pedestrian and cycle permeability, and coordinated open space provision. These elements will ensure that the development complements and strengthens the

surrounding urban structure, promotes active travel, improves accessibility, and contributes to the enhancement of the wider Killinarden area.

Overall, the Killinarden Foothills project represents a strategic investment in housing and community infrastructure, combining substantial residential delivery with long-term social and economic benefits. The HIIF funding is critical to enabling the development of a well-connected, tenure-balanced and high-quality neighbourhood, delivering lasting value for both current and future residents.



Quality Housing



Mayor officially opens Swiftbanks housing development in Saggart

The official opening of Swiftbanks in Saggart marked an important milestone in the delivery of new homes in South Dublin County, with the development providing a significant mix of social, cost rental and affordable purchase homes for individuals, first-time buyers and families.

The opening was attended by new Mayor, Cllr. Francis Timmons, elected members, Chief Executive Colm Ward, representatives of Tuath Housing and Cairn Homes, as well as new residents of the development, along with staff, contractors, design teams and community stakeholders involved in

bringing the development to completion.

Swiftbanks sees 264 new homes provided, including 143 social homes, 95 cost rental homes and 26 affordable purchase homes. The affordable purchase homes comprises a range of three-bedroom homes made available by under the Affordable Dwelling Purchase Agreement, supporting eligible purchasers, including first-time buyers, to access home ownership.

The development provides high-quality, energy-efficient homes in a growing community, with a focus on modern design, comfort and sustainability. The

homes are designed to support long-term, secure living and to enable new residents to put down roots in the wider Saggart area.

The project is a strong example of housing delivery through partnership, involving SDCC, Tuath Housing and Cairn Homes, with support from central government funding. This collaborative approach has enabled the delivery of homes across a range of tenures, responding to local housing needs.

Speaking at the opening, the Mayor described Swiftbanks as “a clear

example of how ambition, planning and partnership can translate into real homes and real opportunities for people in South Dublin”.

Swiftbanks represents another positive step forward in addressing housing need in South Dublin and demonstrates our continued commitment to delivering homes, supporting sustainable communities and working with partners to achieve tangible outcomes for residents.



Quality Housing



Balgaddy pilot to lead new tenant participation approach

Our new Tenant Participation Strategy was officially launched at Balgaddy Community Centre on 10 June with local residents along with pupils from Devine Mercy Senior National School in attendance. The strategy runs from 2025 to 2029 and sets out our commitment to ensuring that South Dublin remains an inclusive, safe and welcoming place to live, work and visit. With responsibility for managing over 10,500 social homes, we aim to empower tenants by promoting, encouraging and supporting active engagement, strengthening civic pride, and fostering a greater sense of connection and

belonging within local communities. Tenant participation is a two-way process in which tenants work in partnership with the council to share ideas, exchange information and contribute to decisions that improve housing services.

Through the strategy, we will continue to listen to tenants and work with them to identify practical ways to support and improve quality of life in the places where they live. As a citizen-centred organisation, we recognise that meaningful tenant participation is central to improving social housing services and building

inclusive, active and safe communities. This approach supports better decision-making, strengthens relationships with communities and partners, and helps lay the foundations for a resilient and sustainable future for local communities.

Our dedicated Estate Management team works to support tenants and manage our tenancies. Our Housing Officers will support the establishment of locally based tenant participation working groups within estates, ensuring tenants have opportunities to share ideas, provide feedback and contribute to service improvements in their communities. We will also promote cross-departmental co-operation to support local initiatives

such as Tidy Towns through community supports, funding and training, and will continue to actively engage and inform communities on climate action initiatives.

Building on recent development work in Balgaddy, the area has been selected as the pilot location for the Tenant Participation Strategy. This structured pilot will support refinement and enhancement of our approaches to tenant engagement, identify practical supports and strengthen future implementation. By placing tenants' voices at the centre of estate management and service improvement, the strategy will support stronger communities, better local outcomes and a more responsive service.



A Thriving Economy



Success for LEO South Dublin client at National Enterprise Awards

Áine Kennedy of The Smooth Company, representing, LEO South Dublin was named Best Export Business at the National Enterprise Awards in The Mansion House, Dublin, on 18 June, following her success n at the Local Enterprise Awards South Dublin in March.

Since launching the business from her attic in 2022, with her Grandad Billy helping to pack orders, Áine has grown The Smooth Company into a global beauty brand loved in over 90 countries and supported by a team of seven employees.

The Smooth Stick has not only become a fan favourite but has also become an internet sensation, with over 150 million views on TikTok plus the introduction of 5

more products - the 4 in 1 Smooth Styler Comb, The Dapper Stick (a surprise collaboration with Grandad Billy!), the viral Mane Master smoothing brush, the Smoothing Travel Brush and Smooth Dream 11 in 1 Hair Styling Cream.

Áine was named as one of the Sunday Independent 30 under 30 Irish businesspeople to watch. She is also the winner of an Emerging New Business Award by the Small Firms Association, winner of the 'Young Entrepreneur Of The Year' at the Irish Woman Of The Year awards 2023 and most recently, won Image PWC Young Businesswoman of the Year Award in 2024.

Local Enterprise Office clients transition to Enterprise Ireland

We are delighted to announce that the following clients have recently progressed to Enterprise Ireland, marking an important milestone in their business growth. Supported through LEO South Dublin's financial assistance, training and mentoring, these businesses have developed the capacity and ambition to move to the next stage of their enterprise journey.

The Smooth Company

Founded in 2022, The Smooth Company is a global brand known for its innovative haircare products in 90+ countries around the world. The company's flagship product is the Smooth Stick™, the brand has expanded its product range to include 10 viral hair smoothing products and tools, and it is stocked in major retailers like Brown Thomas, Arnotts, and Cloud 10 Beauty, as well as on their online store. Founder Áine Kennedy and The Smooth Company have earned significant recognition, receiving a range of prestigious awards at both national and international level such as Best Irish Beauty Brand at the VIP Awards and named EY Emerging Entrepreneur of the Year in 2025.

My Cloud PA

My Cloud PA is an integrated platform established in 2021. The company specialises in digitalisation services, offering tools for customer relationship management (CRM), financial management, e-commerce and digital marketing. My Cloud PA was shortlisted for the 2023

National Startup Awards in the Tech Startup category, marking a significant milestone and national recognition of the company's innovation and growth.

Covy Watersport

Established in 2023, Covy Watersport Ltd design elite, athlete tested performance sailing wear, developed through direct collaboration with Ireland's Olympic and international sailors. Covy is Ireland's first ever sailing brand and is the official kit supplier to both Irish Sailing and the Northern Ireland Sailing Team from 2026 onwards.

Decision Analytics

Decision Analytics is a data and AI company specialising in business intelligence, analytics, and digital transformation solutions. Founded in 2022, the company helps organisations unlock the full value of their data by integrating disparate systems into a single, reliable source of truth and delivering real time insights to support faster, smarter decision making. A key part of the company's offering is its proprietary platform, including tools such as ChimeHive, designed to improve time tracking, job costing, and operational efficiency on the shop floor. Decision Analytics was named a 2025 winner at the European CEO of the Year Awards, hosted by EU Business News.

A Thriving Economy



12th Lock multimedia studio moves to construction phase

A significant milestone has been reached in the delivery of the 12th Lock multimedia Studio, with the construction contract now signed and works expected to begin in the coming weeks.

Vision Contracting has been appointed as the contractor for the project, which received planning permission in July 2024.

The new facility is being developed as part of the wider 12th Lock Masterplan and is designed to support the growth of the creative industries. The studio will provide dedicated spaces for film and television production, digital content creation, podcasting, gaming and visual effects, alongside exhibition areas, workshops, creative offices, co-working spaces and informal social areas.

The project forms part of a broader vision for the 12th Lock area that seeks to create a vibrant destination with high-quality public spaces that complement the natural setting. Investment has been allocated through the Capital Programme to support

delivery of the studio and other elements of the masterplan. When completed, the facility will be operated by 12th Lock Creative Industries under the leadership of Oscar-nominated producer Gary Levinsohn. The studio is intended to provide opportunities for collaboration, innovation and skills development within the creative sector, supporting emerging and established talent.

The development complements other strategic initiatives being advanced in partnership with Lens Media, including the proposed Dublin Fields media campus at Grange Castle. Together, these projects aim to strengthen the region's position as a leading location for film, television, digital media and creative production.

Construction is expected to continue into 2027, with the facility scheduled to open next year.

“Love Lucan” initiate launched to support local businesses

The launch of the Love Lucan campaign marks a significant and exciting new chapter for Lucan village following the extensive public realm enhancement works in the area. These upgrades have transformed the heart of the village, creating a more attractive and vibrant space for residents, businesses and visitors alike. Now, with the physical improvements in place, the focus turns to showcasing everything that makes Lucan a unique and thriving destination.

At its core, the Love Lucan campaign is about celebrating local pride and promoting the diverse offering within the village. It is a collaborative campaign between SDCC and local businesses running from 29 June to 30 August. Through a coordinated use of social media, striking photography and engaging video content, the campaign aims to highlight Lucan's rich blend of heritage, hospitality, retail and community spirit. From its picturesque streets and historical landmarks to its bustling cafés, shop and services, Lucan has so much to offer and the campaign seeks to bring these stories to life in a modern and dynamic way.

Local businesses are at the heart of this initiative. They have been actively encouraged to participate by sharing their own content, promoting their products and services and contributing to a wider, unified message about the

village. This collaborative approach not only strengthens the visibility of individual businesses but also builds a stronger collective identity for Lucan as a destination. By working together under the Love Lucan banner, businesses can amplify their reach and engage new audiences both locally and beyond.

In addition to its economic benefits, the campaign plays an important role in fostering community pride. It invites residents to rediscover their local area and to become ambassadors for Lucan by sharing their own experiences and favourite spots. In doing so, it strengthens the connection between people and place, reinforcing a sense of belonging and shared identity.

The launch of Love Lucan represents a timely and forward-looking initiative. With the enhanced public realm providing an attractive and welcoming backdrop, the campaign ensures that Lucan's renewed energy is visible to all. By raising awareness and generating interest through online platforms, Love Lucan seeks to encourage more people to visit, explore and experience everything the area has to offer by highlighting the many reasons to choose Lucan as a place to spend time.

A Better Place



Expressions of interest invited for ORIS

Expressions of interest are invited from community and local partnership groups for the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) 2026/2027. The scheme is administered by the council and funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht.

The scheme supports the development and maintenance of outdoor recreation infrastructure for activities including walking, canoeing, mountain biking, orienteering and wild swimming.

Projects should generally be located in rural areas, and the scheme can also support recreational infrastructure that links towns or

villages to significant outdoor recreation facilities in the countryside, as well as amenities located near rivers or lakes and water-based projects within town environs.

Expressions of interest for the Project Development Measure and Measure 1 must be submitted by Friday 17 July 2026. Applications for Measure 2 and Measure 3 must be submitted by Friday 14 August 2026. Community and local partnership groups are encouraged to submit proposals in advance of the relevant closing date to allow sufficient time for review and processing.

Further information and expression of interest forms are available at www.sdcc.ie.

Tallaght to Clondalkin Active Travel scheme phase 1 update

We are currently progressing sustainable transport improvements on Belgard Road between the Old Blessington Road junction and the Cookstown Road junction, in conjunction with the National Transport Authority (NTA). This forms Phase 1 of the Tallaght to Clondalkin Active Travel Scheme. The proposed improvements are a key element of Cycle South Dublin and form part of Route No. 4, linking Tallaght to Clondalkin.

The scheme is being progressed under Section 38 of the Road Traffic Act 1994, following public consultation. The contract has been awarded to Clonmel Enterprises Ltd., with works scheduled to commence in August.

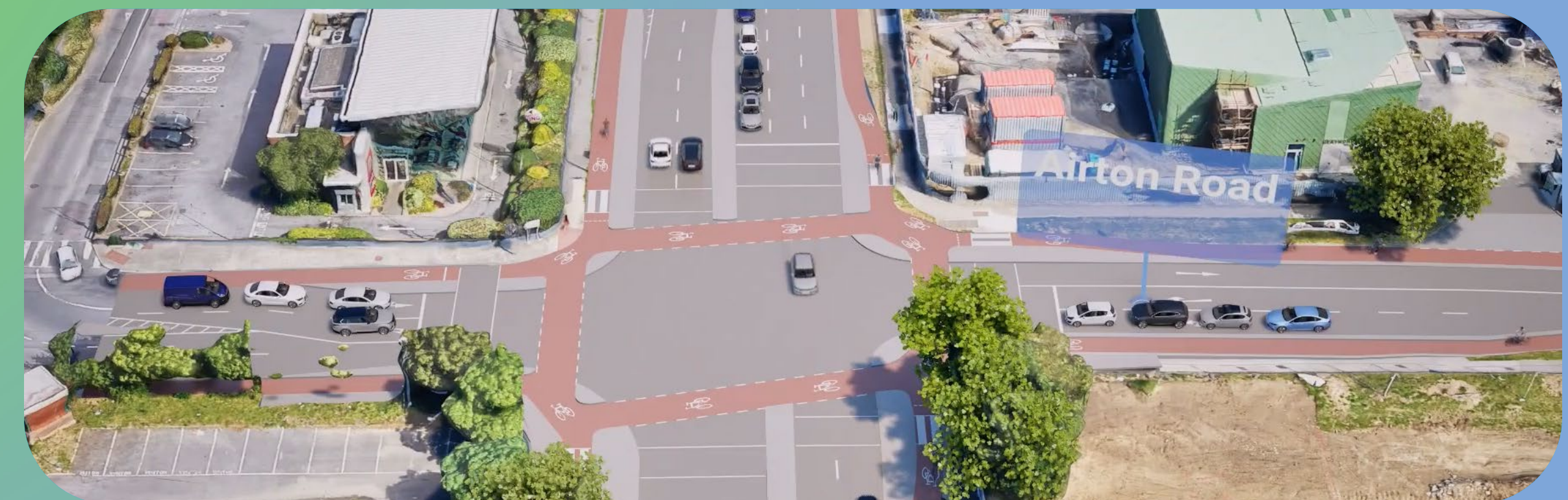
The project will provide wider and safer cycle lanes on Belgard Road from Old Blessington Road to Cookstown Road. The cycle lanes will be segregated from traffic by a raised concrete

kerb. Existing narrow cycle lanes will be widened into the grass verge to a width of 2 metres, with traffic lanes narrowed to 3 metres in some locations.

The project also includes the following measures:

- Improvement to junctions along the route to provide safe crossings and connections for all road users.
- An upgrade of the Airton Road/Belgard Road junction to provide protected cycle facilities in accordance with the Cycle Design Manual
- Safe crossing facilities for pedestrians and cyclists on all four arms of the roundabout at Belgard Road/Belgard Square North.

The image below provides an overview of the proposed improvements between the Old Blessington Road and Belgard Square North junctions with Belgard Road.



A Better Place



Urban Speed Limit Review – consultation and implementation

The Urban Speed Limit Review 2026–2027 is a key road safety initiative aimed at creating safer roads and streets within our local communities. The review forms part of a national programme focused on reducing road casualties and improving conditions for vulnerable road users, including pedestrians and cyclists.

The review is assessing existing speed limits across urban areas, with a clear emphasis on aligning limits with the function and character of each road. Evidence demonstrates that lower vehicle speeds significantly reduce both the likelihood and severity of collisions. Accordingly, the programme seeks to deliver self-explaining, context driven speed limits that are credible, consistent and easier to enforce. Typical outcomes of the review may include:

- 30 km/h speed limits in residential

areas, town centres and around schools, supporting road safety and place-making objectives;

- 50 km/h limits on distributor and link roads where appropriate;
- 60 km/h limits on arterial routes with suitable design standards and separation from vulnerable road users.

A particular focus of the review will be school zones, where periodic 30 km/h speed limits may be introduced during school operating hours through electronic signage to enhance safety for children and families.

The programme is being delivered in accordance with the Road Traffic Act 2004 and national speed management guidance, with key milestones established for consultation, statutory processes and implementation. The Special Speed Limit Bye-Law process is scheduled

to conclude by October 2026, with implementation of approved speed limits, associated signage and mapping updates to be completed by March next year.

Engagement is central to the review process. Draft proposals are first being brought to Elected Members at Electoral Area level, before progressing to public consultation. This will give local communities and key stakeholders, including An Garda Síochána, the

National Transport Authority, Transport Infrastructure Ireland and neighbouring local authorities, the opportunity to take part and make submissions.

The adoption of revised speed limits later this year will support our wider road safety, active travel and sustainable transport objectives, contributing to safer communities and improved quality of life across South Dublin.

St. Cuthberts Park enhancement works nearing completion

Enhancement works at St Cuthbert's Park, Clondalkin recommenced in May 2026 with vegetation removal around the 12th century church ruin. The €2.2 million investment in the 12-hectare park area will provide an enhanced outdoor amenity for the local community, including two playspaces, a teenspace, a 3x3 basketball court, a multi-use games area, new footpaths and cycle routes, lighting and drainage upgrades to existing pitches.

The works are scheduled for completion later this month and an exciting programme of family-focused events is planned for the summer months to mark the completion of the project. We acknowledge the patience and co-operation of the local community throughout the delivery of these works.



A Better Place



Launch of new Road Safety Strategy

Our new Road Safety Strategy has been launched in a key step towards achieving Vision Zero. The strategy sets out a clear plan for safer local roads and aligns closely with the Government Road Safety Strategy. It will be delivered with a heightened focus on the provision of improved infrastructure, road user behaviour, education, and enforcement.

The starting point is recognising that road deaths or serious injuries should not be the price to pay for our mobility. Our aim is to be a place where it is safe for all road users to travel to and from their destination safely, acknowledging the devastating human cost of road trauma on our roads and the lifelong impact it has

on those who have lost loved ones.

We will deliver this through the Safe System approach, recognizing that while people make mistakes, our transport network must be designed and managed, so those errors never result in death or life-changing injuries. Collaboration from all stakeholders is key to achieving this and we work closely with our 'Road Safety Working Together Group' to achieve this.

Through continued partnership, we are endeavouring to make our roads safer and ensure the number of serious injury and fatal collisions are reduced.

Clondalkin village enhancement commencement

The Clondalkin Local Planning Framework (LPF) was approved by Council in March 2026. Section 8.6 of the LPF provides the concept design for a future village enhancement.

The objective of village enhancement will be to improve the functionality, aesthetic and accessibility of the public realm for all age groups and abilities. Further aims of the project will be to deliver additional greening, biodiversity and sustainability that will invite and encourage the community to engage with the public spaces.

As with all our local traditional villages, there is a rich history and heritage to Clondalkin, this is well reflected by the Round Tower Visitor Centre and the project will try to extend this story throughout Clondalkin village.

A consultant will soon be appointed to progress option development in accordance with feedback from consultation during the LPF process with community workshops planned for September to assist with the development of proposals for the village.



Connected Communities



Pride Week at SDCC

Pride Week was marked by a programme of events focused on promoting awareness, inclusion and allyship among staff and the wider community.

The week began with a Lunch and Learn session held in the county hall foyer on 22 June. Delivered by Pride at Work Ireland, the session explored the theme “How to be an Ally.” Staff were encouraged to consider the importance of LGBTQ+ allyship both in the workplace and in everyday life. The session highlighted practical ways to demonstrate support, including participating in Pride events, using inclusive and respectful language, and actively challenging homophobia

and transphobia. Participants were also invited to reflect on personal biases and build confidence in fostering an inclusive working environment.

A staff coffee morning provided a further opportunity for engagement, enabling colleagues to meet members of the SDCC LGBTQ+ Staff Network and learn more about its role in supporting inclusion across the organisation.

SDCC Libraries also played a central role in marking Pride Month, continuing their strong commitment to inclusivity, diversity and community engagement. A varied programme of events created

opportunities for people of all ages to celebrate equality and explore LGBTQ+ culture and experiences.

Throughout June, our libraries hosted a range of inclusive and accessible activities, including Pride bingo sessions, makerspace workshops and karaoke events.

Film screenings exploring LGBTQ+ stories, alongside digital exhibitions on LGBTQ+ history and culture, provided

both in-person and online opportunities for learning and engagement.

A highlight of the programme was participation in the Dublin Pride parade on 27 June. Library staff, in a mobile library, took part in the parade for the fourth consecutive year, joining community groups, organisations and supporters from across the city in a vibrant and visible celebration of Pride.



Connected Communities



Active South Dublin Colour Dash

Our Active South Dublin annual colour dash took place on Saturday 27 June in Corkagh Park and once again proved to be an enjoyable day out for all. The event was sold out in advance, with almost 1,500 people attending on the day, ready to take part in the 2km route. Participants ran, walked or took the route at their own pace, getting covered in coloured powder along the way. The focus was very much on having fun rather than competing, and that came through clearly throughout the event.

There was a great atmosphere in the park from start to finish. People of all ages got involved with everyone clearly enjoying themselves in what is a simple way to bring people together to be

active in a relaxed and friendly way.

Alongside the dash, a live DJ kept the music going, while food stalls and family entertainment ran from 11.00am to 3.00pm with many people staying on to enjoy the day out in the wonderful setting of Corkagh Park. The Colour Dash continues to be one of the most popular events in the Active South Dublin programme, and this year was no different. With strong attendance, great energy and plenty of smiles, it was a brilliant way to celebrate the start of summer — full of colour, fun and good community spirit.

Park Fit, Park Yoga and Park Strength

The Active South Dublin summer programme, which commenced on 7 July continues to support community health and wellbeing through parkfit, park yoga and calisthenics sessions across five park locations: Griffeen, Corkagh, Clondalkin, Tymon and Dodder Valley. These outdoor yoga and fitness programmes provide accessible and inclusive opportunities for residents to engage in regular physical activity in a relaxed and supportive environment.

Sessions take place three days per week — Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday — from 6.30pm to 7.30pm with all events free of charge and open to everyone, encouraging participation from individuals of all ages and fitness levels. Participants can attend weekly or join at any stage, offering

flexibility to suit a range of schedules.

The programmes, which form an important element of the Active South Dublin offering, are delivered in a welcoming, non-competitive format and catered for all abilities, from complete beginners to those with prior experience. This supports healthier lifestyles, fostering social connections and enhancing the use of public spaces in an inclusive and sustainable way, contributing positively to both physical and mental wellbeing. Attendance at these sessions continues to grow, demonstrating strong demand for free, structured outdoor activity programmes. For more Active South Dublin events please see www.sdcc.ie.



Connected Communities



Emerging Talent Bursary Award night

The Emerging Sports Talent Bursary Awards event took place on 22 June, celebrating the achievements and potential of young athletes while reinforcing a strong commitment to the future of local sport. €80,000 was allocated for the bursaries in our budget this year, supporting 17 talented athletes across a range of individual sports, including taekwondo, athletics, swimming and kickboxing.

The bursary programme is an important support in helping promising athletes reach their full potential by easing the financial pressures associated with training and competition. By assisting

with costs of coaching, equipment and travel costs for national and international events, the funding allowed recipients to focus on their performance and development

The successful recipients of bursaries on demonstrated their dedication, hard work and promise while the wide range of sports highlighted the depth of emerging talent locally and the value of supporting these athletes across various disciplines. Whether in the pool, on the track or in combat sports, the recipients have all demonstrated real commitment to progressing in their sport.

The award night brought together athletes, families, coaches and supporters, creating a positive and encouraging environment. It provided an opportunity to recognise how far these athletes have come, while also looking ahead to what they can achieve in the future. For many, the bursary is helping them at an important stage in their journey, supporting them to continue competing at high levels both nationally and internationally. In addition the bursaries reflect a belief in the next generation of local athletes. By investing in these individuals, we continue to strengthen pathways in sport and support the development of future talent.



Connected Communities



New and upgraded dog run facilities at Rathcoole Park and Tymon Park

We are delighted to announce the opening of upgraded dog run facilities at Tymon Park and a new dog run at Rathcoole Park, now open to the public and their four-legged friends.

At Tymon Park, works have enhanced a well-used amenity and include new perimeter fencing, hard-surfaced pens, improved drainage, and a connecting footpath. Additional features such as landscape mounding and a dog play tunnel have also been incorporated to improve usability and provide a more engaging space.

At Rathcoole Park, a new centrally located dog run has been delivered, with works including perimeter fencing, improved surfacing, and clearly defined

access points, providing a safe and accessible space for park visitors.

Dog runs provide a secure environment for dogs to exercise, socialise, and play off-leash, while supporting responsible use of public parks.

The Tymon Park dog run was delivered as part of the public realm improvement works programme, with additional funding support from the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, through the Dog Control Support Initiative. The Rathcoole Park facility was also delivered under our public realm improvement works programme, reflecting our continued investment in local park amenities.

Artificial Intelligence Week

We are supporting staff to safely explore how generative artificial intelligence can improve everyday work, with over 300 staff already completing AI literacy training and building confidence in its use.

A key focus of this work was AI Awareness Week, which took place from 6 to 13 July bringing together a range of experts, to share practical insights, alongside informal peer-led sessions on AI use.

Developing our AI capabilities will lead

to faster and more responsive services for our local citizens as it will help answer common queries, guide people to the right service, and make it easier to access clear information online.

All activity relating to the use of AI is supported by strong governance and a focus on ethical use, ensuring it is adopted in a safe and trusted way while improving our services.





Connecting the county with Public Wifi

The SDCC Wi-Fi Hub brings together public Wi-Fi locations across South Dublin into one easy-to-use service, helping people find and access free, reliable local internet services in the places they live, learn, work and socialise. Access to Wi-Fi is now a necessity for everyday life, enabling people to stay connected with family and friends, access public services and participate fully in modern society. By providing a shared network of connectivity points in libraries, parks, community centres and civic spaces, we are working to ensure that no one is left behind.

Wi-Fi Hub also supports the wider development of broadband and digital infrastructure in the county. Public Wi-Fi complements home and mobile connectivity by providing access in key community locations, helping to bridge gaps and strengthen digital inclusion across all areas.

See where you can connect, wherever you are.
The interactive map provides a clear and visual way to explore public Wi-Fi showing the spread of connectivity across towns, villages, parks and community spaces.

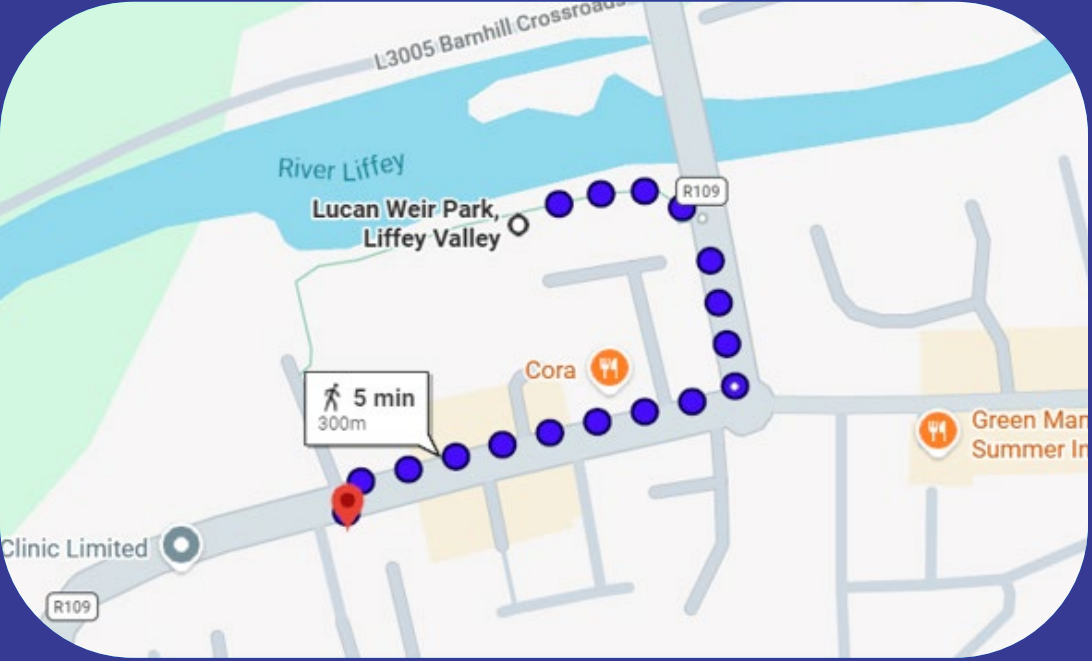
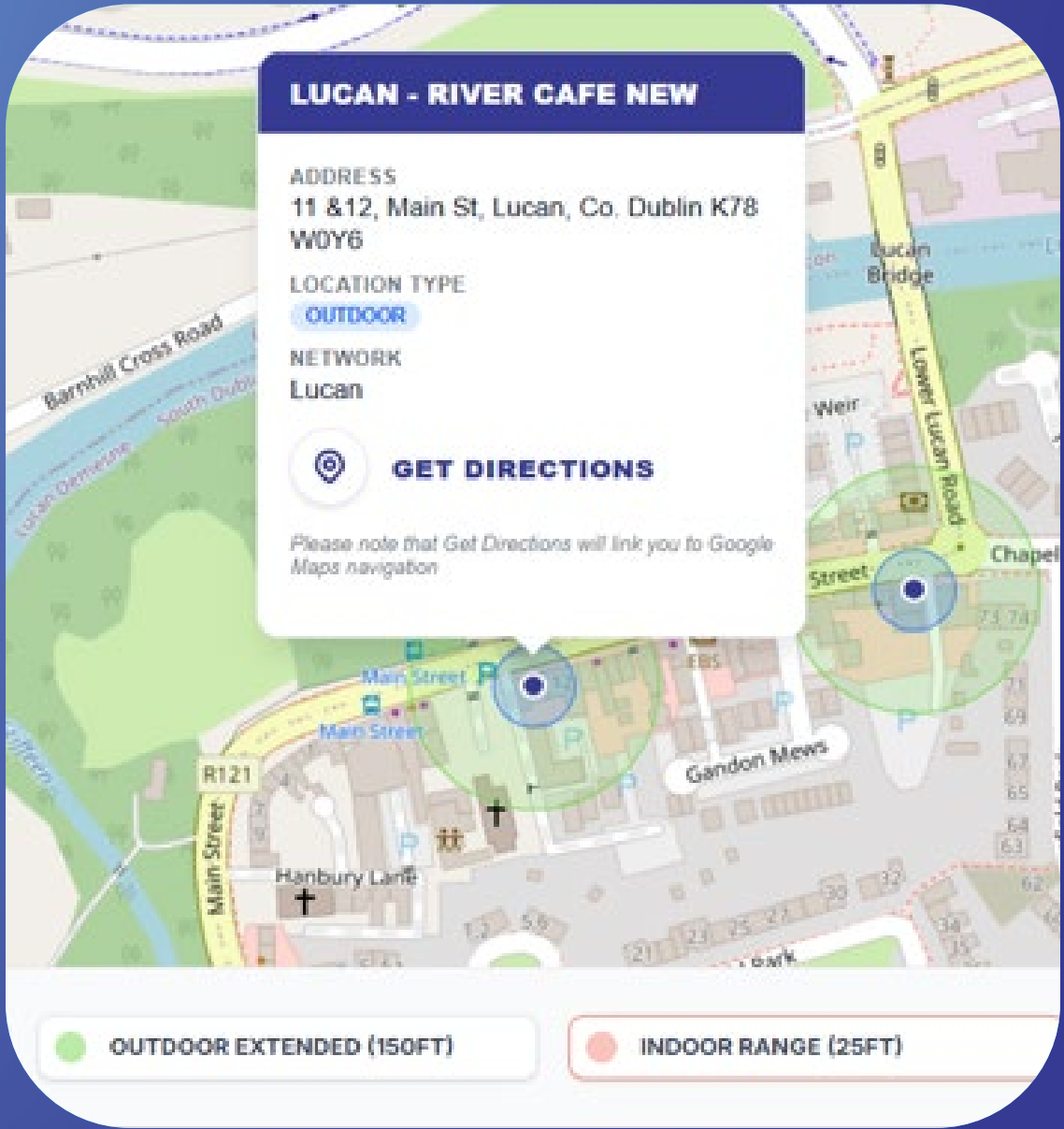
This makes it easy to find nearby access points, understand coverage areas, and identify the most convenient place to get online. Whether you are out for a walk, visiting a facility, or travelling through the county, the map helps you stay connected without disruption.

Public Wi-Fi plays an important role alongside ongoing broadband expansion, ensuring that connectivity is available not just at home, but in the shared spaces where people gather and communities thrive. The map brings this network to life, highlighting our investment in accessible digital infrastructure.

Helping you get connected quickly and easily.
Once you find a Wi-Fi location, the Hub provides simple directions so you can go straight to it without delay. This makes accessing free connectivity practical and straightforward for everyone.

By making Wi-Fi locations easy to reach, the Hub reduces barriers and ensures that people can connect online at all times, supporting greater inclusion by supporting greater digital access across South Dublin.

Find the right place to connect.
The searchable directory allows you to browse all our public Wi-Fi locations, making it simple to find a connection point that suits your needs.



Users can explore locations by area or facility, from libraries and community centres to parks and civic buildings. Each setting reflects how people use connectivity differently - for study, work, accessing services, or simply staying in touch.

By bringing all available locations together in one place, the directory increases awareness and makes public Wi-Fi easier to use. It supports the Council's wider goal of promoting digital inclusion, ensuring that everyone in South Dublin has access to reliable connectivity in their local community.

Access the full Wi-Fi Hub online at digital.southdublin.ie/wifi-hub/, where you can explore all locations, view coverage, and find your nearest connection point. The platform will be updated as new sites are added, helping you stay connected across South Dublin County.

Cultural Richness



National Heritage Week at SDCC Libraries

National Heritage Week, taking place from 15 to 23 August, invites communities to explore South Dublin's history and heritage. Our Libraries will host talks, exhibitions, workshops and family-friendly activities for audiences of all ages.

Our archivist, Carla Soden, will offer opportunities for visitors to engage with archival collections and discover fascinating aspects of our local history. These activities will highlight the importance of preserving local records and sharing the stories that help shape our communities.

SDCC Libraries supports opportunities for learning, exploration and participation throughout the week. National Heritage

Week also provides an opportunity to showcase the rich local studies and archive resources available through the library service, helping people connect with the places, people and events that have shaped South Dublin over generations.

By encouraging people to engage with the past, share their own experiences and discover new perspectives, National Heritage Week helps strengthen community connections and foster a greater appreciation of our shared heritage.

To find out more, follow SDCC Libraries on social media, visit www.sdcc.ie or get in touch with your local branch

SubSounds Youth Music Festival returns to Tallaght

Following the success over the past three years, the free SubSounds Youth Music Festival returns on Saturday, 11 July, from 1pm across county hall car park, Parthalán Place, Rua Red Arts Centre and County library, Tallaght.

Presented by Alternative Entertainments in partnership with Music Generation, the festival will feature approximately 150 young musicians aged 12–18 from across Leinster, including South Dublin, Kildare, Fingal, Meath, Wicklow and Dublin City. Across four stages, audiences can enjoy an eclectic programme of contemporary, traditional, classical and jazz music, with a particular focus on original compositions.

The festival champions youth participation, creativity and civic engagement, with young people involved in all aspects of planning and delivery, from production and programming to promotion and performance. Participating organisations include Alternative Entertainments, CONTACT Studio (SDCC Arts Office Initiative), NOISE Music (SDCC Arts Office) and Music Generation. Festival highlights include performances from wetpaint an up-and-coming young band who hail from Fettercairn and The Hit Machine, Ireland's renowned high-energy percussion ensemble.



Cultural Richness



“Garden Shed Manifesto” - IN CONTEXT public art project

Artist Gráinne O’Carroll and architect and urbanist Ghiath Al Jebawi welcomed children, families, and older residents to a series of creative, nature-based workshops and walks on 5 and 6 June at Castletymon Library. They explore local biodiversity, gardening, foraging and environmental stewardship through art and participation as part of their IN CONTEXT 5 Public Art commission, The Garden Shed Manifesto.

On Friday 5 June, local school children took part in Hands in the Soil: Planting, Herbs & Tea, a practical workshop facilitated by Gráinne and local forager Feebee Foran. Participants worked together to plant shared growing boxes for the project’s mobile garden shed while learning about seasonal herbs. Later that day, Feebee Foran led Local Plants, Local Stories, a series of foraging and storytelling walks exploring the hidden ecologies, histories and plant life

surrounding Castletymon Library.

On Saturday 6 June, young participants joined Plant Dyes & Botanical Flag Making, a hands-on workshop led by Gráinne O’Carroll and Kathryn Davie. Using locally sourced plants, participants created natural dyes, botanical prints and colourful flags inspired by the area’s native flora. The weekend concluded with Seedball Games, where young people from the local Scout group engaged with biodiversity through creative outdoor activities focused on planting and seed dispersal.

The events at Castletymon Library marked an important early stage in the continuing development of The Garden Shed Manifesto, a living project that will continue to grow over the summer months through community participation, creative collaboration, and environmental action across South Dublin.

Rathfarnham graveyard tour

To celebrate their collaboration with SDCC and to provide an insight into the phenomenal work completed, the Rathfarnham Village Tidy Towns Group hosted then Mayor Cllr. Pamela Kearns, as well as councillors and staff on a tour of the Old Rathfarnham Graveyard on 18 June. The Mayor thanked the volunteers for taking the initiative to start this project in 2023 and to make the graveyard accessible to visitors once again, unveiling a hidden gem right at the heart of Rathfarnham Village. It was acknowledged that, along with the physical labour involved, using only hand tools, a great deal of research has also gone into this project, uncovering many fascinating local, national and international links.

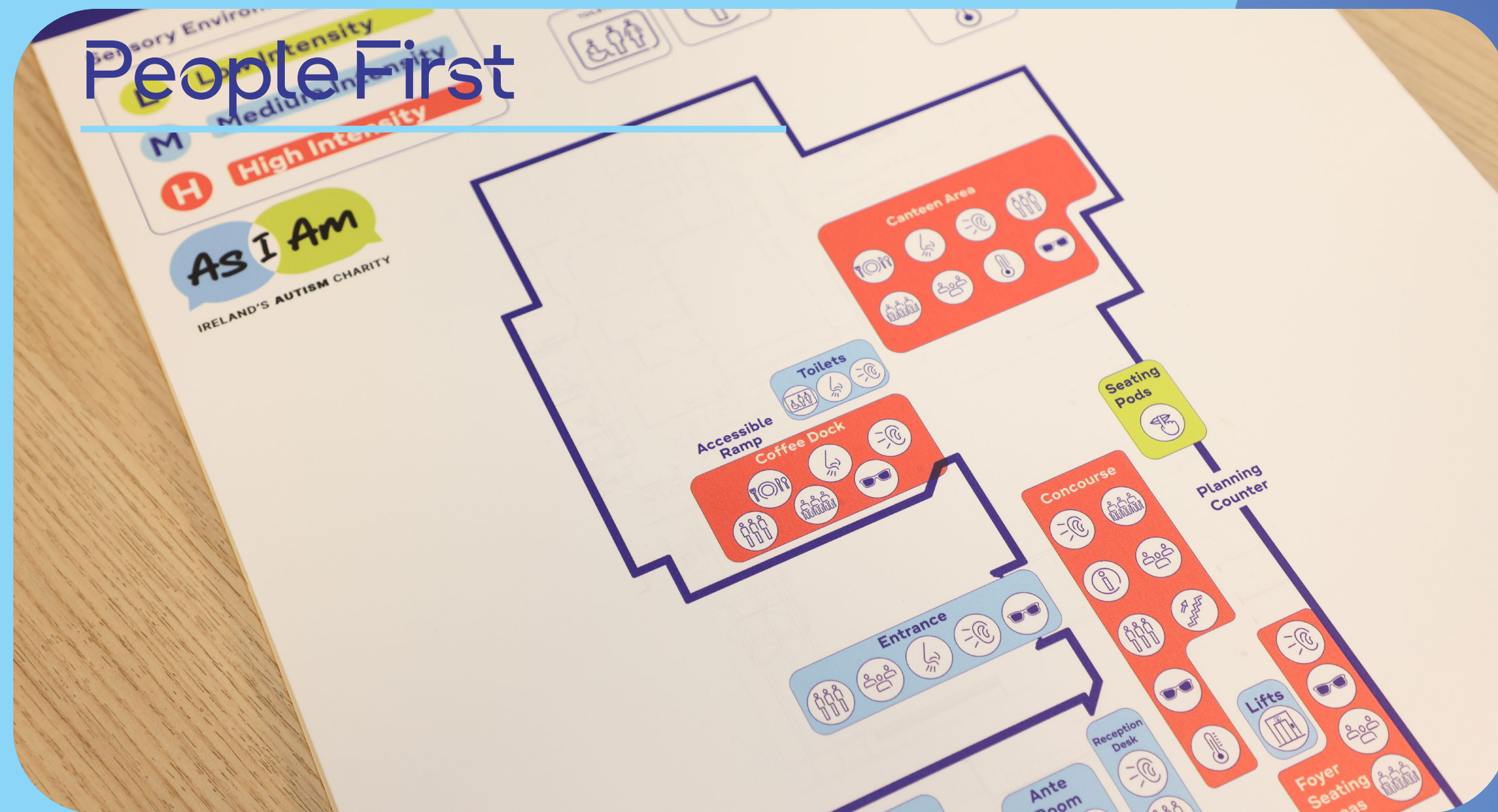
Chairperson of Rathfarnham Village Tidy Towns, Cllr. Lynn McCrave praised the

volunteer team for their dedication and thanked SDCC for their support with this project, particularly the Director of Climate Action, Public Realm staff members, Heritage Officer Rosaleen Dwyer and our Environmental Awareness team. Damian MacGarry, Tidy Towns Committee Member and prominent local historian, provided a wonderfully immersive tour of the Old Graveyard engaging the participants with details of a genuine Viking slab, the mystery of Bram Stoker’s nurse and the true origins of Kelly’s Corner!

Attendees to the graveyard are growing in numbers with Rathfarnham Village Tidy Towns hosting tours on the first Wednesday of every month and a full week of tours is planned for Heritage Week next month.



People First



County Hall autism friendly accreditation

Over the past year we have been working with AsIAm (Ireland's autism charity) to achieve Autism-Friendly Service User Accreditation for county hall. We are pleased to report that we are now approaching the final stage of this process: the agreement of a Charter of Inclusion between SDCC and AsIAm.

As an initial step, we partnered with AsIAm to carry out a comprehensive environmental audit of county hall. The findings from this audit informed the development of a sensory map and a visual guide to the building. In addition, dedicated visual guides have been created for the council chamber and our housing customer centre, to support visitors using these spaces. All resources are available at www.sdcc.ie

To further support accessibility and inclusivity, AsIAm delivered three tailored training sessions to staff from a range of customer-facing roles. These sessions were designed to help staff better understand autism, including what it is and what it is not, while addressing common myths, strengths and misconceptions. They also explored autistic characteristics and supportive communication strategies to help staff provide a more inclusive service to autistic service users.

These initiatives represent a positive step towards creating a more inclusive and accessible environment for autistic service users in county hall.

New housing liaison service for survivors of Industrial and Reformatory schools

A dedicated Housing Liaison Officer has been appointed to support survivors of industrial and reformatory schools in accessing local authority housing information, guidance and assistance.

The service forms part of the wider Government commitment to recognise the experiences of survivors and ensure that housing needs are considered with compassion and sensitivity, including through prioritisation on compassionate grounds where appropriate.

The role will provide as a clear and supportive point of contact for survivors and, where requested and with explicit consent, their advocate. The role is to help survivors understand available housing supports, navigate relevant processes and link with the appropriate Housing Department teams.

Support may relate to social housing applications, transfers, homeless supports, rent and arrears, maintenance, private housing loans and grants, and Traveller accommodation services.

The Liaison Officer will not make decisions on housing applications or services. The service will be delivered in a respectful, confidential and trauma-informed manner, with survivors not required to relive their experiences. Where verification is needed, this will be approached as sensitively as possible.

This important new service provides a dedicated pathway for survivors to engage with the council on housing matters in a way that is accessible, compassionate and practical.



People First



Men's Health Week

Men's Health Week, which ran from Monday 15 June to Sunday 21 June, featured a range of initiatives aimed at promoting staff wellbeing and encouraging healthier lifestyle choices.

This year's theme, "One Step at a Time," focused on encouraging men and boys to prioritise progress over perfection. The campaign highlighted the importance of making small, consistent changes to improve overall health and wellbeing, while also raising awareness and supporting early action when health concerns arise.

As part of the week's activities, our Health Promotion Team organised a series of engaging events for staff designed to support both physical and mental health. Among the highlights were recreational activities such as five-a-side football and table tennis, led by the Active South Dublin Team. These initiatives provided staff with an opportunity to increase physical activity levels, enjoy time outdoors, and strengthen connections with colleagues in a relaxed and social setting.

In addition to the sports activities, a men's nutrition talk was held at Ballymount Depot. The session offered practical advice on key nutritional principles, exploring how diet can influence energy levels, concentration, stress management, physical health, and long-term wellbeing. Further supporting the week's focus on health awareness, a men's health talk delivered by the Health Service Executive (HSE) took place at Tallaght Library. The session provided valuable

information on a range of men's health topics and resources available.

These initiatives form part of our broader Staff Wellbeing Strategy, which is committed to supporting the mental, physical, and social wellbeing of all employees.

The Health Promotion team has an extensive programme of initiatives planned for the remainder of the year.



County Matters



New Mayor and Deputy Mayor elected at Annual Meeting

At the Annual General Meeting held on Friday 26 June, Independent Cllr Francis Timmons was elected Mayor of South Dublin for the 2026/27 term. Cllr Timmons succeeds Cllr Pamela Kearns and was elected following a vote of the Council.

First elected in 2014, Cllr Timmons represents the Clondalkin, Rathcoole, Newcastle, Saggart and Brittas Local Electoral Area. In his acceptance speech, he expressed his commitment to working collaboratively with all elected members and staff to support an inclusive, welcoming and diverse county. He also

reflected on issues of equality, social inclusion and international humanitarian concerns.

At the same meeting, Fine Gael Councillor Sarah Barnes, representing the Firhouse–Bohernabreena Local Electoral Area, was elected Deputy Mayor for the 2026/27 term succeeding Cllr. Trevor Gilligan.

We wish to extend our congratulations to Mayor Francis Timmons and Deputy Mayor Sarah Barnes and look forward to working with them during the coming year.



County Matters



Further public consultation on County Development Plan variation

Proposed Variation No. 2 to the County Development Plan was considered at special meetings of the council on 19 and 24 June after the Chief Executive's Report was published in response to extensive public submissions made during the process. The proposed variation arises from the revised National Planning Framework (NPF) and associated Section 28 guidelines issued by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, which seek to ensure sufficient zoned land to meet projected population growth.

Under revised targets, SDCC is required to accommodate an uplift of approximately 600 additional housing units per annum in addition to the current Development Plan provision and into the future to meet housing demand. This variation marks an important step in aligning the Development Plan with updated national planning policy.

The special meeting of the council considered 180 motions including decisions on zoning lands and specific local objectives. Following consideration by the elected members, it was

resolved that modifications to the variation are required and that these constitute material alterations to the proposed variation. A further period of public consultation relating to material alterations commenced on 7 July.

The material alterations to the proposed variation will include proposals to add new lands for residential zoning at Cornerpark Newcastle, additional/amended specific local objectives on new residential zonings at Ballynakelly Newcastle, Adamstown West, Tubber Lane, Edmonstown Road, Citywest,

Liffey Valley Shopping Centre, Edmonstown Road and Foxhunter and to remove proposed residential zoning and specific local objectives on lands at St Edmundsbury, Finnstown Castle and Coldcut Road. Following public consultation and a Chief Executive report, decisions on the material alterations and a resolution on the proposed variation will be made at a council meeting later this year.



County Matters



SDCC and IPB launch Local Environmental Action Fund

The Local Environmental Action Fund (LEAF) joint initiative between SDCC and IPB Insurance was officially launched by the Mayor of South Dublin, Cllr Francis Timmons in Rathfarnham Castle Park on Monday 6 July. LEAF provides a €100,000 local fund available to Tidy Towns, Residents' Associations and voluntary groups to support community-led projects focused on Environmental Enhancement, Biodiversity and Climate Action.

The LEAF initiative is a coordinated national **Communities Working Together for Climate** fund and Mayor Timmons noted that “the joint initiative will provide the support to empower Tidy Towns members and voluntary Community Groups to deliver visible and

practical environmental improvements in local areas. Whether your community wants to create a new green space, improve local biodiversity, boost energy efficiency, or reduce food waste, this fund is here to help.”

This initiative builds on the strength and legacy of the Tidy Towns movement and community volunteers, whose contributions play a key role in enhancing quality of life and supporting Ireland's climate and biodiversity goals.

Graham Orr, Director of Member and Client Relations at IPB Insurance, highlighted the Fund's importance within IPB's Centenary Year saying, “As Ireland's local government mutual insurer, IPB Insurance exists to protect

our members who, every day, serve the public and their communities. Our mutual ethos goes beyond insurance, it's about giving back and supporting initiatives that strengthen communities and enhance places. In our centenary year, this Fund represents a meaningful investment in the future of towns and communities across Ireland, delivered in partnership with the local authorities who founded IPB. I am particularly delighted to see the fund launching here today in South Dublin”

Grants of €1,000 to €25,000 are available to fully finance high-impact local projects such as biodiversity, sustainability, water conservation, circular economy, renewable energy and waste reduction initiatives that will enhance the local environment.

The applicant group must be a Tidy Towns or other voluntary group that undertakes similar activities such as a resident association. The proposed

project must include collaboration with at least one other community stakeholder group including but not limited to local schools, scouts groups, youth clubs, sports clubs, women's sheds, men's sheds, community gardens.

Project examples include, but are not limited to:

- Perennial planting aligned with the SDCC Pollinator Plan / All Ireland Pollinator Plan
- Tree planting and urban greening initiatives e.g. planting on sports club grounds, schools
- Renewable Energy Projects e.g. installing small solar systems e.g. Community Centres
- Water Conservation e.g. waterbutts, rain-gardens, rainwater harvesting
- Repair Café's and waste reduction and recycling initiatives
- Public education campaigns on sustainability
- Climate resilience projects e.g. flood prevention measures



Finance Report

Billing & Collection Report @ 29th June 2026						
Billing	Arrears 31 Dec 2025	Budget 2026	Billed	Receipts/Credits	Arrears	% of Billed income
Commercial Rates	€11,192,587	€157,614,100	€160,494,641	€119,996,310	€51,690,918	75%
Housing Rents	€7,802,151	€42,547,400	€21,361,815	€21,392,237	€7,771,728	100%
Housing RAS Rents	€1,201,981	€2,315,500	€1,117,257	€1,096,354	€1,222,884	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	€306,381	€0	28%
Fire Certificates	n/a	€450,000	n/a	€286,322	€0	64%
Parking Fees	n/a	€803,000	n/a	€393,487	€0	49%
Uisce Éireann	€91,652	€1,759,400	€1,442,337	€1,424,040	€109,949	81%
	€20,288,371	€206,599,400	€184,416,049	€144,895,132	€60,795,479	

Debt Analysis - Social Housing Rent Accounts			
Category	Number	Amount	%
No arrears	6557	2,978,712	60%
0-6 weeks	1941	418,490	18%
7-12 weeks	412	330,798	4%
13-18 weeks	303	398,386	3%
19-24 weeks	206	387,335	2%
25-52 weeks	592	1,770,600	5%
1 - 2 years	460	2,555,229	4%
> 2 years	485	4,889,602	4%
Total	10956	€7,771,728	100%

Debt Analysis - Commercial Rates Accounts		
Category	Amount	%
Current	42,450,371	82%
>1 year	2,729,788	5%
>2 years	1,794,877	3%
>3 years	1,198,522	2%
>4 years	1,026,928	2%
>5 years	507,263	1%
2020	60,992	0%
Pre 2019	1,922,177	4%
Total	51,690,918	100%

Flag raising to mark EU presidency



Launch of Swiftbanks, Saggart



Colour Dash at Corkagh Park



Artist Bursary Awards



Templeogue United grant funding



Tymon Park dog run



Raising of flag for Pride month



Annual Meeting





Socials

Facebook

X

Instagram

YouTube

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