

SDCC

Comhairle Contae
Átha Cliath Theas

South Dublin
County Council

Chief Executive's Report

How we're
creating greater
opportunity for
all

February 2026

Photos by The Echo Newspaper



Ellen Walshe named Sports Star of the Year at the Amateur Sports Awards



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



Community climate action programme – Phases 1 and 2 progress

The Community Climate Action Programme continues to be integral to how SDCC supports the local community sector to take climate action.

By May of this year we will see the successful completion of the first round of Community Climate Action Programme projects, which address mitigation and adaptation climate actions across all seven local electoral areas. 11 projects have looked at the critical challenge of renewable energy generation in community spaces, through the installation of solar panels. Clondalkin Addiction Support Centre, Rathcoole Community Centre and St. Marks Youth & Family Centre have all undertaken this work, creating small renewable energy hubs across the county. In total, over 200 kilowatts (kW) of renewable energy will be installed in Phase 1.

Using less electricity and improving heat retention in community buildings is another essential intervention. A further 13 projects are carrying out energy-efficiency works ranging from switching to higher-efficiency, LED lighting, to upgrading building fabric through new windows, doors, and insulation. Groups supported here include Citywise Education, the Clondalkin Citizen's Information Centre, Lucan Harriers Athletics Club, and the 103rd Dublin (Willington) Scout Group.

Flooding and heat are two of the most significant climate-change impacts. The creation of a new community green space in Bawnogue at ACE Enterprise Park helps to absorb more rainfall during weather events, while native planting helps to cool the air on hot days.

Encouraging more active and lower-carbon travel is also central to community-level climate action. 2 projects are installing bike-parking facilities to support cycling, while 3 are installing EV-charging infrastructure to support the transition away from petrol and diesel journeys, including Glenasmole Community Centre and Three Rock Rovers Hockey Club. Circular-economy innovation has also been supported with, for example, an electrical-recycling initiative under way at 12

sites across our administrative area, helping reduce the carbon impact of creating new materials.

Building on the success of phase 1, a second round of funding worth €1.073 million will be awarded in April 2026. Upon completion of both of these phases of the Community Climate Action Programme, over €2 million will have been invested in climate action initiatives in local communities.

New guides help residents master 'Smarter living' (Smarter energy use)

We are looking toward a greener future with the launch of two new educational resources: the Heat Pump Myth Buster and the Guide to Smarter Living. Whether you are a homeowner investing in Solar PV or a tenant learning how to use a new heat pump, these compact pamphlets—designed by our Climate Action Team—provide clear, jargon-free guidance to help reduce energy bills and cut carbon emissions.

A key aim of the new materials is to demystify heat pump technology. As Ireland transitions away from fossil-fuel boilers, many residents naturally have questions. Our Myth Buster leaflet addresses these directly by explaining how heat pumps operate efficiently in Irish winters, outlining their versatility, highlighting potential summer savings, and clarifying the “cruise control” heating approach used to maintain steady and comfortable indoor temperatures. The homeowner version also sets out the substantial SEAI grants available to

reduce installation costs, while the tenant version focuses on achieving maximum comfort at minimum cost.

The Guide to Smarter Living emphasises that small, everyday actions can have a big impact. Rather than requiring major renovations, the toolkit provides straightforward advice on heating habits, making the most of Solar PV, tackling “vampire” devices, cooking efficiently, and maintaining healthy indoor environments. The guides also highlight essential home-care practices—for example, keeping trickle vents open and using lids on pots—which not only save energy but also prevent damp and mould.

These new pamphlets will be available in SDCC libraries, at climate events, and digitally on the Climate Action section of our website. For new tenants, they will also act as an important welcome resource to help them understand and manage modern energy systems confidently.

Climate Leadership



SDCC and VOICE Ireland launch reusable cloth nappy Initiative

We recently took another step toward a greener future for our youngest citizens through the launch of the Reusable Cloth Nappy Initiative. Delivered in partnership with VOICE Ireland, the programme supports families to reduce waste, cut costs, and contribute to climate justice across the county.

The initiative was officially launched on 14 January at North Clondalkin Library by Cllr. Caroline Brady, marking further progress on our climate action journey and highlighting a practical circular-economy option for families.

Every day in Ireland, an estimated one million disposable nappies are sent to

landfill or incineration. This new initiative aims to help change that pattern by giving families the tools and confidence to switch to modern, easy-to-use cloth nappies.

Families participating in the scheme can now access subsidised starter kits with high-quality adjustable nappies that grow with the baby, expert workshops offering step-by-step guidance on washing, fitting, and maintenance, and ongoing community-led support to make the transition easier.

Reusable cloth nappies offer a range of benefits with families potentially saving more than a thousand euro from birth

to potty training while supporting a “make-use-reuse” approach that keeps materials in circulation, reduce carbon emissions by between 25 and 40 per cent over the nappy’s life cycle, and divert roughly one tonne of waste per child from landfill.

This partnership reflects a strong commitment to climate justice by ensuring that access to low-carbon living is inclusive. By providing a limited number of subsidised starter kits, we are helping ensure that the financial and environmental benefits of circular-economy choices are available to all families, regardless of background.

Those who missed the launch can still take part. Further information and application details are available through the VOICE Ireland Cloth Nappy Incentive Scheme.



Quality Housing



Delivering more homes in 2025

Delivering more homes remained a key priority throughout 2025. In that year, 1,259 homes were allocated to households on our social housing waiting list, providing secure, sustainable, long-term tenancies for more than 3,000 adults and children.

We supported 206 households in successfully transitioning from temporary emergency accommodation into permanent homes, providing intensive case management tailored to each household's needs.

Through the choice based letting system, 881 households secured new

homes, reflecting our commitment to giving applicants greater autonomy in selecting accommodation that best meets their needs. A review of our processes, along with the hard work and dedication of our team, made this outstanding result possible.

77 households with complex medical or accessibility requirements, were prioritised for allocations ensuring they could access homes that support independent living and remove barriers to daily life.

In addition, 145 households transferred to more suitable homes, including

right-sizing moves for age-friendly tenants and relocations to more sustainable and accessible properties close to essential transport and community amenities. A total of 19 allocations were facilitated under the Mortgage to Rent scheme, offering long-term security of tenure to homeowners in financial distress and enabling families to remain in their homes as social housing tenants.

Housing delivery was supported through a wide range of streams, including our own self-builds, re-lets, leasing, Part

V, and homes provided in partnership with Approved Housing Bodies, who play a vital role in increasing supply and expanding opportunities for housing applicants.

We continue to provide high-quality support and guidance from the initial application through to tenancy sign-up. This year's milestone achievements highlight our ongoing dedication to increasing access to clean, safe, and secure homes for individuals and families across the county.



Quality Housing



New Traveller accommodation proposed at Lock Road, Grange Castle West

A draft Part 8 proposal for new Traveller accommodation at Lock Road was presented to the Clondalkin, Newcastle, Rathcoole, Saggart and Brittas Area Committee in December 2025. This development marks an important milestone in delivering our Traveller Accommodation Programme and demonstrates our commitment to providing culturally appropriate housing.

The proposed development includes four new homes: one bungalow and three halting site bays, each supported by a dedicated day unit and an adjacent mobile unit. The wider site layout has been

designed to support community wellbeing and daily living, with a homework club, play area, enterprise space, storage facilities, and all required associated works. All homes will be constructed to the highest standards and will achieve an energy-efficient A rating. The Lock Road site at Grange Castle West also benefits from close proximity to local amenities and essential services, helping to ensure residents have easy access to supports and opportunities.

The Part 8 proposal was recently published and is scheduled to go before the full council later this year for approval.

SDCC vacancy rate reduced to 0.55% in 2025

Our maintenance and allocations teams continued to work collaboratively to minimise vacancy periods and ensure that returned properties were brought back into active use as quickly and efficiently as possible. Our focus remains on maximising the availability of clean, safe, and secure homes for eligible households on the housing waiting list.

A total of 187 properties were successfully re-tenanted throughout the year, with an average turnaround time of 22.19 weeks from surrender to allocation. This timeframe reflects the extensive and essential remedial works required to restore properties to the standards necessary for re-letting.

The scope of these works varies depending on the condition of each

property and may include clearance of abandoned items and full professional deep cleaning, replacement or upgrading of kitchens and bathrooms, installation of new windows and doors, and essential improvements to heating and electrical systems. Every property undergoes a comprehensive inspection to ensure full compliance with all statutory and regulatory requirements for rented accommodation.

By the end of the year, just 61 properties remained vacant, representing a 0.55% vacancy rate across our housing stock. This exceptionally low rate highlights our strong operational performance and our ongoing commitment to increasing the availability of homes and reducing our turnaround times to between less than 20 weeks for 2026.



Before



After

A Thriving Economy



LEO South Dublin's clients at showcase 2026

Some of our best up and coming craft and design businesses recently got the opportunity to meet with buyers from all over the world as part of the Local Enterprise Showcase at Showcase 2026 at the RDS in Dublin.

An initiative of the Local Enterprise Offices (LEOs), the Local Enterprise Showcase, is a special area at Showcase that houses a range of Ireland's newest

design talent. The following companies were selected by LEO South Dublin to take part in this year's Local Enterprise Showcase:

- Gabriela Baptista from Crea with Baby with creative stationery for journaling and planning
- Arzu Gorbil from The Crochet Dolls with handmade crochet dolls and gifts
- Paul Brereton from Facet Ireland, Irish

made jewellery

- Tanya Byrne from Daisy & Tanya, hand-made designed luxury hair accessories for children for special occasions

Our LEO team has been working closely with them in recent months to ensure they are in the best possible position to maximise their appearance at the event including sales techniques, marketing materials and stand production.

Other companies who participated in Showcase Ireland are Feebee Foran from Forager, Emma Higgins Art, Linda Proudfoot Artist, TJG Ltd, Jeweller, Yoko Wool, Green Angel and Crafty by Illina, who won the Local Enterprise Showcase Award winner for her beautiful handbags.

Showcase is a pinnacle event in the global design and crafts calendar. Over 3,300 buyers from 27 countries attended the three-day event this year looking to secure new sales and partners for the year ahead.



A Thriving Economy



Local Enterprise week 2026

Local Enterprise Week 2026 was officially launched at a special event in Work IQ, Tallaght, marking the start of an exciting programme running from 2 to 6 March 2026. Delivered by Local Enterprise Office South Dublin, the week will showcase a wide range of supports available to start-ups, the self-employed, students, and small businesses across the county.

This year's programme will take place across key enterprise and cultural venues including Work IQ, Tallaght and Rua Red Arts Centre, offering practical workshops, expert talks, panel discussions, and one-to-one mentor clinics. Highlights include the panel discussion "Momentum: Moving Your Business Forward", delivered in collaboration with South Dublin County

Partnership, and Essential Financial Insights with Paul Merriman of AskPaul. Mentor Clinics at Work IQ will provide tailored guidance, while a Creative Networks Collaboration event at Rua Red will connect members of the Intercultural Artists Network and the LEO SCENE Network.

A strong focus this year is the schools programme, which will take place in secondary schools across Lucan, Tallaght and Clondalkin. Students will hear directly from inspiring local entrepreneurs including Sofie Rooney and Gareth Fitzgerald of Milky Paws Limited, Gaby Baptista from Crea with Gaby, who recently exhibited at Showcase 2026, Laura Maher of Oliver

Media, Riyadh Abdelkader from John Cole Creative, Robert Coffey from Hire Wise Limited and Krystyna Wittbrodt from K Factory Print and Embroidery Limited. These sessions are designed to bring real-world enterprise experience directly into the classroom.

The "Intro to Start Your Own Business" session will feature guest speaker Dan Potts from The Career, while Glitz & Pieces will share first-hand insights into building sales and brand visibility through TikTok.

The week also includes the Local Enterprise Awards on Thursday, 5th March, celebrating outstanding South Dublin businesses, and concludes with the Student Enterprise Awards on Friday, 6 March, where students from secondary schools across the county will present their businesses live to a panel of judges.

Full details and registration are available at localenterprise.ie/southdublin



A Better Place



Looking back at road opening licences

A total of 3,649 applications for Road Opening Licences (ROL) were received in 2025, with 3,326 licences granted. This represents a 15 % increase on 2024 and reflects strong construction activity and development.

A Road Opening Licence is required to ensure that any construction works taking place on a public road or in public-realm areas are managed safely and carried out to a high standard. The process helps coordinate and phase multiple works to minimise traffic disruption. Applicants must provide full details of the planned works, the dates involved, the temporary traffic-management plan to ensure traffic can pass safely, and the reinstatement method that will be used to repair the road after excavation.

A ROL includes conditions to control the way the works will be managed and completed. The assessment of the ROL application includes inputs from the Traffic Section team on the temporary traffic management plan required and the Roads Maintenance team on the reinstatement requirements.

Roads Inspectors ensure that applicants comply with the agreed terms in the ROL and assess if the reinstatement of the road is satisfactory post excavations. The Road Management Office (RMO), in conjunction with the Department of Transport, are examining the feasibility of providing a national portal of real-time roadworks information for the public.

2025 road maintenance review

The Road Maintenance team continued its extensive programme of works throughout 2025, delivering 149 schemes under the annual Road Works Programme. These schemes resulted in more than 51,000 square metres of footpath improvements and 161,000 square metres of road and cycle-track repairs across the county.

As part of the programme, works included pothole and ironwork repairs, road-marking upgrades, hedge and verge cutting, and the repair of vehicle-restraint systems. Alongside contracted works, our crews attended more than 3,000 sites during the year.

Their work covered road and footpath repairs, pothole repairs, sign and bollard maintenance, drainage works, clean-ups following road-traffic incidents, responses to severe weather events, and debris or oil removal. The scale and complexity of activity varied from location to location, and the value of this work to the county is substantial.

In addition to this programme, our crews responded to over 300 out of hours call outs and completed 49 winter-maintenance operations. This work is essential to ensuring that our road network remains safe and accessible throughout the year.





City Edge: Sustainable Urban Regeneration Framework (SURF)

City Edge is one of Ireland’s most ambitious regeneration projects, aiming to transform the industrial lands around Naas Road, Ballymount and Park West into a new urban quarter that has the potential to deliver up to 40,000 homes and 75,000 jobs. Covering more than 700 hectares, the scale of the project makes it unique in Ireland and one of the largest redevelopment opportunities in Europe.

The City Edge lands span both South Dublin County Council and Dublin City Council areas, and the project is being delivered through a close partnership between the two local authorities. The SDCC element of the area comprises 440 hectares.

To guide the next stage of this work, it is proposed to adopt a Strategic Urban Regeneration Framework (SURF), which will serve as the statutory land-use framework. for the part of City Edge located within South Dublin County

will be progressed through a proposed variation to the South Dublin County Development Plan 2022–2028. It is anticipated that the proposed variation will go on public display in the second quarter of 2026 and will include a full public consultation process, along with consideration by the Elected Members.

The SURF will be informed by the non-statutory City Edge Strategic Framework, published in 2022. It will translate that long-term vision into practical planning guidance to support the regeneration of the area in the short to medium term. The SURF will also set out a clear intention to designate the area as a Candidate Urban Development Zone under the Planning and Development Act 2024 once the relevant sections of the legislation have been commenced. At present, the available commencements do not provide the statutory basis needed for us to progress a UDZ designation.

Built heritage investment scheme

Another successful year saw eight projects completed under the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage’s Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS). These ranged from private dwellings to public buildings, with total funding of €104,326.52 awarded to applicants within the county and overall project costs amounting to €178,093.70. The supported works included projects at the Rutland Centre DAC, Knocklyon House, St Mary’s Church, Tallaght Priory, 2 Lower Mill Lane in Palmerstown, the Oil Mill in Corkagh Park, Rathcoole Health Centre and the Bell Tower at Old Orchard in Lucan.

The Department is providing the scheme again for 2026, with €121,011 allocated to SDCC. The aim of the BHIS is to

assist with the repair and conservation of protected structures under the Planning and Development Acts and, in some cases, buildings within Architectural Conservation Areas. The scheme is administered by our Architectural Conservation Officer on behalf of the Department.

BHIS is designed to leverage private capital for investment in small-scale, labour-intensive conservation work, supporting the employment of conservation specialists, craftspeople and tradespersons who maintain and repair the historic built environment. Applications for 2026 have been received from the public, and seven projects have recently been approved for grant offers by the Department.

SDCC	Type of Works	Total €121,011.00
St. Mary's Priory, Tallaght Village, Dublin 24	Roofs	€40,000
The Rutland Centre DAC, Knocklyon House, Knocklyon Road, Templeogue	Windows, Doors and Associated Elements	€5,511
636 Whitechurch Road, Rathfarnham	External Walls	€5,800
3 Main Street, Tallaght, Dublin 24	Roofs	€13,500
St. Annes Church, Bohernabreena	Roofs and Rainwater Disposal	€7,000
Rockbrook Park School, Edmondstown Road, Rathfarnham, Dublin 16	Interiors and Other Works	€25,000
Former Oil Mill, Corkagh park, Clondalkin, Dublin 22	Historic Ruins	€24,200

Connected Communities



Data protection week

Data Protection Week took place from 26–30 January and featured a programme designed to build awareness, reduce human error, and strengthen compliance across our organisation. The sessions covered core data protection principles, our responsibilities as a data processor, handling Data Subject Access Requests (DSARs), preventing data breaches, and understanding role-specific obligations.

To encourage active participation, the programme included a visual campaign, real-life case studies, scenario-based learning, an anonymous feedback honesty box, staff clinics. One of the highlights of the week included an online event hosted by SDCC and the Data Protection Commission which was attended by 249 staff from local authorities

nationwide (number). This event focused on enforcement, compliance updates and the role of AI. Participants had the opportunity to explore practical solutions and useful tools to help mitigate data errors in their daily work. A dedicated session was held for Elected Members which focused on their responsibilities as data owners as well as targeted workshops for housing teams, DSARs) decision makers and senior managers.

Throughout the week, key organisational messages were reinforced, including Records of Processing Activities requirements, legal bases for processing, retention rules, Freedom of Information, Access to Information on the Environment procedures, and reporting and managing data breaches, all of which will feature in upcoming reports and training for staff.

Digital transformation

Preparing for a major upgrade to how we deliver digital services is a key focus for us this year to align with the national Digital Public Services Plan with the objective that by 2030 all key public services are available online and that 90% of applicable services are consumed digitally.

The new platform will be introduced in stages so we can test each part, address issues early, and improve as we progress. Early work will centre on expanding online services and strengthening how our internal systems connect and share information. New roles will support the design of easier-to-use online services, manage projects, and maintain strong data protection and accessibility standards. Several technology improvements are already underway. These include upgrading servers, enhancing backup

systems, and strengthening tools that support secure and flexible working. Together, these upgrades will make our systems more reliable and better prepared for the new platform. Protecting personal data also remains a top priority. Recent risk reviews have highlighted cybersecurity and business continuity as key areas of focus, and these are being built into our plans.

Protecting personal data remains a top priority. Recent risk reviews have highlighted cybersecurity and business continuity as key areas of focus, and these are being built into our plans. We expect to begin onboarding a new digital platform later this year, hiring key digital roles, and upgrading our technology to help us deliver faster, simpler, and more accessible services for everyone.

Artificial intelligence in SDCC

Introducing Artificial Intelligence (AI) in a careful and responsible way continues to be an important part of our digital transformation. At this early stage, Microsoft Copilot is the only approved generative AI tool in use within SDCC, with a small group of around thirty staff testing and evaluating how it can support our work.

To help all staff understand what AI can do to support more efficient public service delivery, and the risks that come with it, our Digital Services team will deliver organisation-wide AI Literacy training throughout this year in partnership with Microsoft. This

training will cover practical uses of AI, its limitations, and the data protection responsibilities that apply under EU GDPR and the Irish Data Protection Acts.

We are also bringing in specialist AI expertise to support the development of a formal AI Usage Policy and to brief staff on emerging public-sector guidance as we continue to develop safe, responsible, and effective use of AI across the organisation as we shape our approach to new technologies as part of our digital transformation journey.

Connected Communities



Local community safety partnership induction meeting

An induction meeting for the South Dublin Local Community Safety Partnership (LCSP) took place on 12 December 2025, marking an important step in strengthening cooperation to improve community safety and wellbeing across the county. 23 members were appointed to the South Dublin LCSP, representing a wide mix of statutory agencies, local services and community organisations.

The purpose of the induction meeting was to introduce members to the LCSP model and outline its operation. Members received an overview of their roles and responsibilities, the governance and reporting structures, and the national context for the LCSP initiative. The session also highlighted the importance of collaboration between statutory agencies, community groups, and residents to identify safety priorities and develop effective, place-based responses.

The meeting created an opportunity for members to meet one another,

make connections, and begin building relationships, helping to establish the foundations for strong collaborative working. It also set expectations for community engagement and communication processes, as well as the development of the partnership's first three-year local community safety plan. This will make use of subgroups and wider stakeholder involvement to ensure members are well prepared for the LCSP's formal work.

We are currently progressing selection of resident representatives for the LCSP following an expression of interest process that closed on 27 January. The successful nominees will be forwarded to the National Office of Community Safety for review followed by formal appointment by the Minister for Justice

The first official meeting of the South Dublin LCSP will take place on 20 February 2026 as which a chairperson will be elected, and the partnership can begin setting priorities and planning its initial programme of work.

African Cup of Nations soccer blitz

Our Active South Dublin team organised soccer blitz as a celebration of culture, sport, and community to coincide with this year's African Cup of Nations (AFCON)

AFCON is the main biennial international men's association football competition in Africa. It is sanctioned by the Confederation of African Football and was first held in 1957. It takes place every two years in December and January, involving 24 participating countries.

Active South Dublin, working with our Intergration Team and Shamrock Rovers FC, invited local schools to take part in a fun and friendly football blitz during AFCON with 24 school teams, each representing one of the participating countries. Pico Lopes, captain of Shamrock Rovers and a Cape Verde international who has played in the previous AFCON, attended the event bringing both the League of Ireland Premier Division and FAI Cup trophies along

As part of the project, schools encouraged pupils to learn all about the country they were representing, including food, language, population, flag, and notable people. Pupils then created an educational poster about their assigned country to showcase at the event.

Active South Dublin offered a set of jerseys for the best poster, which was

awarded to St. Martin de Porres National School from Tallaght, representing Equatorial Guinea and all participating children also received a medal and sports gear from Shamrock Rovers.

Schools were delighted with this unique way of blending physical activity, integration, and learning. Active South Dublin now plans to explore how this initiative can be expanded to include future events celebrating countries from around the world.





Connected Communities

Celebrating local sporting excellence at the Active South Dublin Amateur Sports Awards

Another memorable evening of celebration recognised outstanding sporting talent, dedication and community spirit across the county at this year's Active South Dublin Amateur Sports Awards. Delivered in partnership with The Echo, the event honoured athletes, coaches, volunteers and clubs whose achievements in 2025 and early 2026 reflect the depth and diversity of sporting life in South Dublin.

International swimmer Ellen Walshe received one of the evening's top honours when she was named Sports Star of the Year for the third time. The Templeogue athlete enjoyed an exceptional 2025, setting seventeen Irish national records, securing multiple medals at European Aquatics

Championships and World Cup events, and reaching five world finals. Speaking on the night, Ellen said she was grateful for the recognition and excited for the year ahead as she prepares for major competitions in 2026.

The overall Team of the Year award went to Bally Boden St. Enda's Senior Mens Football team who won the Division 1 League as well as the Dublin and Leinster Championships, only falling narrowly to eventual champions Dingle after extra time in a thrilling All Ireland semi final.

Local clubs were also highlighted for their growth and impact. Esker Amateur Boxing Club received the Club Development Award, marking an

important milestone in its thirteen year journey. Operating from Lucan Leisure Centre, which was recently completed by the council, the club now has more than 150 members and recently celebrated its first Elite Champion, Nathan Ojo.

Ed Griffin expressed appreciation to community partners for their continued support, noting that having a permanent base has strengthened their ability to offer structured, high quality boxing opportunities for young people. Griffin also thanked the council for all the work that they had put in helping the club to where it is. "We wouldn't be where we are now without Colm Ward and SDCC. We were on our knees for a long time, and they said that they would sort us out. They've done it with Jobstown and all of the sports clubs around the area."

Volunteer commitment was equally celebrated. Patsy Kelleher of Dublin Lions Basketball Club, a long standing member of the basketball community, received the Volunteer of the Year Award in recognition of her dedication to supporting the sport locally. Her contribution reflects the essential role volunteers play in encouraging participation, supporting clubs and creating pathways for young athletes.

The awards ceremony also welcomed a special guest appearance from World Youth Heavyweight champion and Jobstown native, boxer Adam Olaniyan, whose "flying visit" brought excitement to the room. His presence offered inspiration for young athletes and demonstrated the positive influence elite

competitors have on community sport. Speaking at the ceremony Olaniyan said "...I have to give thanks to all at Jobstown Boxing Club, obviously also to SDCC, Active South Dublin and especially The Echo for documenting everything. It's been a great journey so far."

Across each award category, the evening demonstrated the pride felt throughout the county for its sporting community. From boxing and basketball to athletics and swimming, the event celebrated individual achievements as well as the collective effort of families, volunteers, clubs and local organisations that support sporting ambition at every level.

We continue to recognise the dedication of athletes and volunteers who inspire the next generation and promote wellbeing through sport, reflecting the county's ongoing commitment to participation, inclusion and opportunity.



Sports Star of the Year: Ellen Walsh

Club of the Year – Lucan United FC



Volunteer of the Year – Patsy Kelleher, Dublin Lions Basketball Club



Coach of the Year – Hillary Nets, Coláiste Eanna and Liffey Celtics Basketball Club



Club Development of the Year – Esker Boxing Club



Cultural Richness



Jane Austen ball at Ballyroan Library

Ballyroan Library was transformed into a lively ballroom to celebrate the 250th anniversary of Jane Austen's birth. Open to the public, the event invited guests to step back in time by wearing Regency-style outfits in a setting that felt reminiscent of *Pride and Prejudice*.

Some attendees fully embraced the theme, arriving in elegant gowns, tailored waistcoats, long gloves, and even a top hat. The evening began with dance workshops where participants learned

traditional Regency dances. A highlight was the Duke of Kent Waltz, which proved especially popular among both beginners and more experienced dancers.

After the lessons, guests took to the dance floor, encouraged by dance teacher Gisele, before enjoying a charming tea party. Nearly fifty people attended the Ballyroan Ball, creating a fitting tribute to Jane Austen's enduring legacy and bringing her world to life for an evening of elegance and style.

Firstival 12-17 January

Delivered by SDCC Libraries, Firstival gave adults across the county a fun and lively start to 2026. For the second year in a row, libraries were filled with unique activities and events that encouraged people to step outside their comfort zones, meet new people, and try something new.

Workshops included punch needle, silver ring forging, line dancing, and terrarium crafting. All events were free of charge and open to adults of all ages. The focus was on enjoyment and exploration, with libraries providing a relaxed and welcoming space for people to try something different. For many participants, it was their first opportunity to experience a completely new skill to help beat the winter blues, whether

through the Korean paper art Joomchi or Kintsugi, the Japanese art of repairing broken items with gold.

The response to Firstival was extremely positive, with every event fully booked. Overall, the festival has become a highly successful part of the SDCC Libraries events calendar. It highlights the important role we play in supporting community and creativity, offering citizens of South Dublin opportunities to learn new skills in a warm and friendly environment.

To keep up to date with library activities and resources throughout the year, follow SDCC Libraries on Facebook or Instagram, or visit sdcc.ie/library.



Cultural Richness



TradFest 2026

TradFest in South Dublin ran from 21–25 January, and this year’s festival once again proved to be a great celebration of traditional music and culture. Over five lively days, venues across Tallaght, Clondalkin, Rathcoole, Rathfarnham and the Dublin Mountains were filled with traditional Irish and folk music as TradFest once again brightened the dark January evenings in South Dublin County.

With 41 events in total, the festival brought warmth, community spirit and creativity to audiences who enjoyed some of the best live traditional and folk performances. Deputy Mayor of South Dublin, Cllr Trevor Gilligan, officially launched TradFest at a special event in Tallaght Stadium on Wednesday, 14 January, with music by Mundy and Clada. Several headline events for the main festival sold out weeks beforehand, including concerts by Brian Kennedy,

Liam Ó Maonlaí and Louise Mulcahy. Brian Kennedy performed to a full audience at St Maelruain’s Church on 22 January, reaffirming his status as one of Ireland’s most loved voices. The next evening, Liam Ó Maonlaí delivered an intimate and moving performance that showcased his exceptional talent. Louise Mulcahy’s concert in Rathfarnham Castle was so popular that tickets were gone well before the festival began. This event also hosted two more standout performances: internationally acclaimed harpist Gráinne Hambly on 24 January, and Dublin singer songwriter and multi-instrumentalist Eoghan Ó Ceannabháin on 25 January.

In Clondalkin, excitement started early with a series of fringe events. The first—a special harp celebration in Áras Chrónáin featuring Oscar nominated actor and TradFest patron Stephen Rea, harpist BRÍDÍN and the TU Dublin Harp

Ensemble—received overwhelming positive responses and set a warm, inclusive tone for the week. Audiences also enjoyed an evening of stories and music from Mike Hanrahan and Eleanor Shanley at the same venue. In Rathcoole, the Court of Petty Sessions hosted two excellent instrumental performances: renowned uilleann piper Mark Redmond on 24 January and celebrated concertina player Mícheál Ó Raghallaigh the following day. On 24 January, dancers young and old took part in a lively afternoon céilí at Glenasmole Community Centre overlooking wonderful valley views there. Fringe partners—including SDCC Libraries, the Dublin Mountains Partnership, local groups

and businesses—added to the festival atmosphere with workshops, sessions and cultural experiences. These included “try the pipes” workshops in Tallaght Library, a teen trad session in Ballyroan Library and a TradFest walk from Rua Red to Glenasmole. Aon Scéal Café in Tallaght also joined in by hosting a memorable performance of original Irish language songs by singer songwriter Danaí Ó Céileachair.

Across towns, villages and mountain communities, planned and spontaneous sessions added colour and energy to the week, ensuring the TradFest spirit could be felt everywhere—from cafés and libraries to historic venues.

CCÁCT ag ullmhú do Sheachtain na Gaeilge 2026.

Tá ullmhúcháin ar bun le haghaidh Sheachtain na Gaeilge, an fhéile náisiúnta ina gcuirtear an Ghaeilge chun cinn agus a bheidh ar siúl an 1–17 Márta. I mbliana, cuirfear tús le ceiliúradh Átha Cliath Theas ar an 10 Feabhra i Leabharlann Bhaile Uí Ruáin, arna sheoladh ag Méara CCÁCT, an Comhairleoir Pamela Kearns, agus ag Bernard Dunne, pátrún de chuid na féile.

Réitigh Leabharlanna CCÁCT agus Áras Chrónáin clár spleodrach imeachtaí le haghaidh 2026. Is cuma más cainteoir líofa Gaeilge thú nó nach bhfuil tú ach díreach tosaithe ar an nGaeilge a fhoghlaim, beidh gníomhaíochtaí ann a bheidh feiliúnach do gach aois agus do gach leibhéal cumais.

In CCÁCT féin, tá Oifigeach na Gaeilge ag tacú le baill foirne agus iad ar a n-aistear teanga. Beidh deiseanna neamhfhoirmiúla

ann comhrá a dhéanamh i nGaeilge i bhforhalla Halla an Chontae agus ag bord Gaeilge sa bhialann. Comhroinnfear Focal an Lae ar an idirlíon agus ar na meáin shóisialta. Tairgfear deiseanna oiliúna agus leabhrán eolais ina mbeidh focail agus nathanna úsáideacha do bhaill foirne.

Deis iontach is ea Seachtain na Gaeilge chun an Ghaeilge agus cultúr na Gaeilge a cheiliúradh. Ag tógáil ar an rath a bhí ar Tradfest na bliana seo, tabharfar cuireadh do cheoltóirí traidisiúnta ceol a chasadh i Halla an Chontae le linn maidineacha caifé. Chomh maith leis na himeachtaí a chur chun cinn go poiblí, tacóidh Oifig na Gaeilge le for-rochtain an rannóg Acmhainní Daonna agus iad ag cothú caidreamh le scoileanna trí sheisiún speisialta as Gaeilge a chur ar fáil do Ghaelcholáiste áitiúil.

People First



SDCC staff festive fundraising

Festive cheer filled County Hall on 17 December as staff came together for a fundraising morning to support for very worthwhile local charities.

Some of talented bakers among our staff generously prepared a variety of delicious treats for colleagues to buy on the day. Staff were invited to wear Christmas jumpers, while our wellbeing champions and volunteers were on hand to support the event and offer raffle tickets, while RAMS in Rhythm, a musical group of retired men from Newcastle filled the foyer with seasonal music, creating a welcoming and lively atmosphere.

We were delighted to see staff enjoying the atmosphere and contributing so generously. A total of €2,445 was raised on the day—€815 each for Barnardos Child and Family Centre, Jobstown; VISIT (Voluntary Independent Services in Tallaght); and Shannon's Hopeline.

The day was also the last opportunity for staff and councillors to provide donations to our toy drive in aid of Childrens Health Ireland(CHI) Tallaght. An impressive collection of toys was also donated, and CHI were delighted to receive our delivery.

A sustainable success: TFI Leap Card initiative for SDCC

We recently marked the successful conclusion of our Transport for Ireland (TFI) Leap Card Initiative, an important step in our commitment to Smarter Travel and more sustainable commuting. Staff across County Hall, Tallaght took part in the pilot, logging their journeys and embracing greener ways to travel.

The initiative, which has now formally concluded, invited participants to record their commutes and engage with a series of informative webinars and supports. Staff in the pilot group received a €100 Leap Card, while others joined a control group to help measure the impact of the behaviour shift. There was friendly competition as staff recorded their sustainable journeys and competed for prizes on the scheme leaderboard, as staff saw that small changes in daily travel can make a meaningful difference.

SDCC staff member Carl Sage, who took part in the challenge, said: "It was great to have the opportunity to take part in the Leap Challenge — I really enjoyed it and was elighted to win a spot prize too, so everyone's a winner!"

The initiative forms part of our strategy to reduce dependence on single-occupancy private cars. With transport accounting for approximately 34 per cent of total emissions in South Dublin, every bus, train and Luas journey helps to move us toward a cleaner, more connected county.

By participating, staff also helped advance our progress toward the next

level of the National Transport Authority's Smarter Travel Mark, building on our current silver accreditation.

Although the initiative has now officially ended, the benefits of using a TFI Leap Card remain and staff are being encouraged to keep using their Leap Cards to enjoy savings of up to 30% on fares as well as seamless travel across Dublin Bus, Go-Ahead Ireland, Luas, DART and commuter rail, all while avoiding and reducing traffic congestion

We extend our sincere thanks to all staff who took part helping South Dublin move towards a cleaner, greener future.



County Matters

Corporate Plan Achievements - A year of progress for communities

Stronger climate action, new and upgraded homes, thriving local enterprise, and better public spaces defined the past year. We set clear goals in our Corporate Plan and delivered measurable results that improve everyday life across the county. Below are the standout highlights for each goal.

Climate Leadership

Energy efficiency continued to improve and greenhouse gas emissions fell. Since the baseline year, energy efficiency is up 44.2% and total electricity and direct emissions are down 43.5%. We progressed 87% of the one hundred and twenty nine Climate Action Plan measures, advanced Energy Performance Contracts for six high use buildings, and

awarded a contract to install solar PV on libraries and community centres, with detailed designs complete and supply applications submitted for an initial 11 sites. Heatworks secured €4.9 million in climate action funding and laid new pipes on Airtown Road to serve future customers. More of our fleet now runs on HVO, a new fleet management system went live, and public realm upgrades continued with solar compactor bins and LED lighting. Active travel moved forward at pace, with 68 kilometres—almost half—of the Cycle South Dublin network delivered or under construction, and safer routes provided for 27 schools to date. Flood protection works also advanced, including the new flow control structure at Tymon Park as part of the River Poddle scheme.



Quality Housing

We delivered 816 new social homes and advertised 156 affordable purchase homes, while major projects progressed in Clonburris, Kilcarbery and Killinarden. The Kilcarbery Grange programme has now provided 1,034 new homes under the original agreement, including social, cost rental and affordable homes, with a further 88 due in the next phase. Innovation Square attracted strong demand for cost rental housing, and our Traveller group housing scheme in Newcastle was completed. We invested in our existing stock through retrofits, windows and doors, fire safety works and maintenance, supported homeless households into new tenancies, and opened a family hub in Tallaght. Planning, enforcement and customer services also strengthened, with more online applications, high decision confirmation rates, and a new housing customer centre

supported by upgraded digital systems.

A Thriving Economy

Local businesses grew with targeted supports from our Local Enterprise Office, which approved grants of €897,789.59 for 32 firms, directly creating 50 new full time jobs and supporting many more over three years. Training, mentoring and specialist green and digital programmes helped companies cut costs and compete. Work IQ had its first full year, hosting 34 businesses and supporting 126 jobs. At Grange Castle International Business Park, about 5,328 jobs were sustained, aided by completion of the phase two access road. We advanced the City Edge masterplan, adopted the LECP, developed a county economic strategy, and progressed plans to boost the evening economy in Tallaght. Tourism grew through the County Tourism

Strategy, completion of the Grand Canal Greenway from the 12th Lock to Hazelhatch, and increased visitors to Brú Chrónáin's Round Tower Visitor Centre. Strong financial management underpinned delivery, with improved rates collection, reduced arrears, timely accounts, and a balanced procurement pipeline.

A Better Place

We adopted a new Parks and Open Space Strategy and delivered better places to meet, play and be active. The programme added 12 new recreational facilities, including a café and hub at Corkagh Park, the new Tymon Park Centre, two new playspaces, two teenspaces, two MUGAs, a calisthenics area, an outdoor classroom and an outdoor gym and upgraded pitches county wide. Tree care and planting scaled up, public realm

projects completed across 63 sites, and walking and cycling routes in parks extended to 170,640 linear metres. Street cleaning, lighting upgrades and road repairs continued at pace, with 1,876 public lighting units upgraded to LED in the year and 6,178 lights repaired. Large growth areas progressed: in Clonburris, more than 1,000 homes are complete and about 1,500 are under construction, with park and link street projects moving through planning and design; in Adamstown, over 5,000 homes are complete and further community infrastructure advanced.

Connected Communities

Partnership working deepened through the LECP, SICAP and local forums. SICAP exceeded targets by supporting 1,559 individuals and building the capacity of community groups, while

the Public Participation Network was re established with a 21% increase in membership. We established the Local Community Safety Partnership, expanded age friendly work, and supported young people through Comhairle na nÓg, with conference attendance up by more than 40%. Active South Dublin programmes widened participation, while grants, bursaries and club supports helped volunteers and organisations to thrive. Digital engagement grew strongly, with over 1.1 million interactions across social channels, a refreshed website, more public information screens, and a new online payments system used for over 22,800 transactions.

Cultural Richness

Libraries and the arts reached more people than ever. Over 60,000 active library members made more than 1.3 million transactions during 973,236 visits, and 8,542 events drew 150,621 attendees. My Open Library in Lucan extended access from eight in the morning to ten at night, seven days a week, with hundreds of registered users and thousands of visits. Construction began on Citywest Library and planning advanced for Adamstown and Kishogue. The Red Line Book Festival grew to more than 5,500 attendees, while South Dublin Live presented 39 performances to audiences of 18,500. Music Generation, NOISE Music and Creative Ireland programmes engaged children and young people across schools, libraries and community hubs. We invested €1.283 million in arts grants and bursaries, commissioned new public art, and promoted Irish through county

wide initiatives and the Dublin wide Gaeilge365 programme, supported by more than €4.5 million over four years.

People First

We built organisational capacity to serve residents better. Recruitment, promotions and apprenticeships strengthened our workforce, and our innovation programme continued with staff awards and an expanded Innovation Week. Health and safety remained a priority, and we launched a wellbeing strategy with a network of champions. Accessibility improved; from sensory guides for County Hall to a framework for accessibility audits, while our Gender Pay Gap Report showed average earnings for women were ten percent higher than for men, reflecting our workforce profile. Governance stayed robust, with full Council and committee business delivered, procurement plans implemented, audits completed, and compliance with the Code of Governance progressed. We also modernised digital services, improved core systems and devices, introduced an accessible typeface, and ensured offline alternatives remain in place so that no one is left behind.

Across climate action, housing, enterprise, placemaking, community life, culture and organisational excellence, we made strong, evidence based progress that people can see and feel in their daily lives. We will build on this momentum in the year ahead, working with partners and communities to deliver fair, inclusive and high quality services for everyone.



County Matters

Launch of competitive dialogue for new housing delivery options

Developers and builders from across the region attended an information briefing hosted by SDCC on 27 January to learn more about the opportunity to help deliver new social and affordable homes through a competitive dialogue public-procurement process.

We are inviting expressions of interest for a wide range of housing proposals, including houses, apartments, mixed-tenure schemes and innovative solutions that can support our growing population.

Under the new national housing plan “Delivering Homes, Building Communities 2025–2030”, we will looking to expand our housing delivery programme in the years ahead. We are particularly interested in new ideas, new partnerships and new ways of delivering homes at scale including more use of modern methods of construction as well as efficient and cost effective proposals.

The competitive dialogue process allows us to work with shortlisted candidates



to to shape proposals that best meet local housing needs. This approach has already previously supported successful delivery of homes in South Dublin and beyond , and we now want to broaden its use to increase the supply of social and affordable homes here..

Housing proposals under the competitive dialogue process can include:

- sites with existing planning permission where a developer will construct and deliver five or more homes;
- partially completed sites requiring completion of five or more homes; or,
- sites without planning permission where a developer will secure approval and deliver five or more homes.

Where appropriate, we may also advance suitable projects through the Part 8

planning process, subject to the approval of elected members.

Our Chief Executive Colm Ward welcomed the launch, noting that providing social and affordable homes for people in the county remains one of our highest priorities. He highlighted that delivering homes at scale requires partnership, innovation and openness to new ideas, and encouraged landowners, developers, small and medium builders, and our housing partners to engage with the process to help deliver lasting solutions for communities across the county.

Full details on the competitive dialogue process, including how to make a submission, are available at www.sdcc.ie.

County Matters

Eight projects shortlisted in the annual LAMA All-Ireland Community & Council Awards

The Local Authority Members Association (LAMA) has announced the shortlist for the 2026 LAMA All-Ireland Community and Council Awards. The Awards recognise the strong partnership between communities and councils, highlighting outstanding local initiatives, celebrating unsung heroes and showcasing projects that enrich and strengthen community life.

We have been shortlisted in eight of the 24 award categories, reflecting the breadth and impact of our work including:

- Council of the Year award
- Work IQ in the Best Enterprise and Start-Up Hub category
- The Grand Canal Greenway in Best Community-Scale Enhancements
- The Corkagh Park Regeneration in Best Transformative Capital Projects
- Parthalán Place in the Reimagining Public Places Award
- Innovation Apartments in Best Sustainable Infrastructure and Climate Action
- The regeneration of West Tallaght Parks in the Community Wellbeing Initiative



- category
- The Tesco Ireland Community Fund in Best CSR Project in a Community.

Chief Executive Colm Ward welcomed the announcement, noting that being shortlisted in eight categories, including Council of the Year, reflects significant recognition of our ambition, innovation and commitment to delivering transformative projects that support sustainable development, climate action and thriving communities. He acknowledged the dedication of elected members, council staff and project teams whose work continues to create lasting opportunities for those who live, work and invest in South Dublin.

Mayor of South Dublin, Cllr. Pamela Kearns also highlighted the importance of the nominations, describing them

as a strong endorsement of the vision, commitment and hard work behind the delivery of meaningful outcomes for local communities. She noted that being shortlisted in eight categories demonstrates the strength of collaboration between residents, elected members and staff, and shows how local government can lead positive change, improve quality of life and build sustainable, vibrant places for current and future generations.

The 2026 Awards will take place at the Dublin Royal Convention Centre on 28 February 2026. This year's ceremony marks three major milestones: the twentieth anniversary of the Awards, 40 years of the LAMA Executive and the centenary of the main sponsor, IPB Insurance.

Finance Report

Billing and Collection Statement

	Provisional Arrears @ 31 Dec 2025	Adopted Budget 2026	Billed to 23rd January 2026	Rec'ts/Credits to 23rd January 2026	Arrears @ 23rd January 2026	% of BILLED income achieved
<i>Via Billing Systems</i>						
Commercial Rates	€11,192,282	€157,614,100	€159,807,290	€0	€170,999,572	0%
Housing Rents	€7,793,460	€42,547,400	€3,335,279	€3,068,947	€8,059,792	92%
Housing RAS Rents	€1,227,055	€2,315,500	€176,104	€191,913	€1,211,245	109%
<i>Via Cash Systems</i>						<i>% of Budget Income Achieved</i>
Planning Fees	n/a	€1,110,000	n/a	€5,332	€0	0%
Fire Certificates	n/a	€450,000	n/a	€9,333	€0	2%
Parking Fees	n/a	€803,000	n/a	€340	€0	0%
Water Services/Uisce Eireann	€91,652	€1,759,400	€0	€0	€91,652	0%
	€20,304,449	€206,599,400	€163,318,673	€3,275,865	€180,362,261	

Rents Aged Debt				Rates Aged Debt		
Category	Numbers	Amounts	% of Accounts	Year	Bal O/S	%
Accounts not in Arrears	6233	2,739,999	57%	2026	159,761,877	93%
0-6 weeks	2049	411,041	19%	2025	4,495,146	3%
7-12 weeks	525	373,159	5%	2024	2,451,351	1%
13-18 weeks	286	360,443	3%	2023	1,375,523	1%
19-24 weeks	238	401,356	2%	2022	320,124	0%
25-52 weeks	576	1,718,596	5%	2021	486,844	0%
1 - 2 years	494	2,646,937	5%	2020	45,118	0%
Greater than 2 years	480	4,888,259	4%	Pre 2019	2,063,590	1%
Totals	10,881	€8,059,792	100%	Totals	€170,999,572	100%

Liam Ó Maonlaí at St Maelruain's Church



Brian Kennedy at St Maelruain's Church



Tradfest at Áras Chrónáin



Launch of Active Travel Funding



Kintsugi Workshop at Tallaght Library



Active South Dublin Soccer Blitz



Launch of Local Enterprise Week 2026





Reception of Mayor of Wauwatosa, Mr Dennis McBride at County Hall

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