

Chief Executive's Report

How we're creating greater opportunity for all

November 2025



Opening of Tymon Park Intergenerational Centre



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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Dublin local authorities' fashion film launches in style

“Losing the Thread: The Cost of Fast Fashion”, a collaboration between the four Dublin local authorities, premiered on Friday, 3 October at the Lighthouse Cinema in Smithfield. The film, which was produced with funding from the Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment, takes an honest look at Ireland’s fast fashion problem by exploring environmental impacts and ethical dilemmas as well as sharing the views of shoppers on Dublin’s streets. It concludes with practical and inspiring steps to address the issues raised, featuring expert opinions from Ireland’s growing circular economy sector.

The launch event which was attended by over 150 students from across Dublin combined education and inspiration, and included a circular clothes swap, upcycling workshops, expert advice and an interactive panel discussion with circular economy specialists. Over two hundred items of clothing were exchanged at the fully circular swap shop. Both the film and the launch reflect the commitment of the four Dublin local authorities to supporting the circular economy and reducing textile waste and the film is now available to view on www.mywaste.ie which is Ireland’s official guide to managing waste.

Community Action Tackles Illegal Dumping

Following a successful application to Dublin City Council as the waste enforcement regional lead authority, three community anti-dumping initiatives were implemented in South Dublin over recent months with the €61k grant funding received.

Firstly, a two-week radio campaign highlighted producers’ responsibilities for litter and waste disposal. This involved a series of adverts which reached over 284,000 listeners on local radio stations Q102 and FM104 and it also saw a further 50,000 digital ads being sent to smart devices.

A second scheme addressed repeated dumping at a specific location in West Tallaght. In this instance, funding supported the installation of extra public lighting, to help deter dumping of household waste adjacent to a new multi-

use games area along with CCTV also directed at the site. This intervention has proved effective, with no further incidents of illegal dumping reported to date. The third scheme was a mattress amnesty in the run up to Halloween which saw eight dedicated drop-off events take place in the community, along with the opportunity to bring unwanted mattresses to our project partners site in Clondalkin. 1,225 mattresses were diverted from landfill and recycled by our project partners in Bounce Back Recycling based in Clondalkin. Bounce Back are a social enterprise who deliver social, environmental & societal impacts that make economic sense, and they collaborated with our environmental awareness team to make the amnesty days become community recycling days offering free WEEE collections while our staff were on hand to share advice on environmental issues.



Climate Leadership



Sustainable Development Goals events a success

A variety of events took place during SDG Week, held from 20 to 27 September this year.

Activities included an energy and sustainable living workshop for Women's Collective Lucan, educational walks in Corkagh and Tymon parks led by our park rangers, and a Lunch & Learn session in county hall. The Lunch & Learn focused on the Sustainable Development Goals, highlighting actions being taken and inspiring practical ideas for everyday life.

Participants discovered how small changes can help achieve the Global Goals, from simple ways to protect the planet to ideas for saving money and living more sustainably. The interactive

quiz and hands-on workshop encouraged everyone to test their knowledge and try new approaches. Many enjoyed the chance to win sustainable prizes, which added a fun and competitive element to the experience.

The week provided an ideal opportunity to meet others and build connections. Positive feedback and strong attendance reflected a shared commitment to sustainability, both at work and at home. Thank you to all who facilitated, attended and contributed to making these events successful. There is great anticipation for future opportunities to learn, connect and work together towards a more sustainable future.



Progressing Active Travel in South Dublin

Our Active South Dublin plan delivering active travel and sustainable transport options continues to support climate action and healthier lifestyles in neighbourhoods across the county. Several major projects, as outline dbelow have made significant progress this year making it safer and easier for everyone to walk, cycle and move around their communities.

D24 Neighbourhood Cycle Network

The second phase of the D24 network began in May 2024 with the construction of a new junction at Ballycullen Drive and Ballycullen Road delivering protected cycle lanes as well as pedestrian crossings on the three arms of the junction. Construction of five kilometres of segregated cycle lanes using

reallocated road space followed this. 12 new pedestrian crossing facilities were constructed, four of which are directly linked to school access, while the levels of two existing pedestrian crossings on Killinenny Road were raised making them more prominent and visible to road users.

The project also saw footpath widening and relocation of public lighting columns on approximately 200 metres of path in front of two primary schools on Ballycullen Drive. Lighting was also added to a permeability route from Killinenny Road to the community centre, football club and men's shed and school zone works including rondels and pencil bollards were carried out at three schools. Construction works on this phase were completed last month at a total cost

Climate Leadership



Progressing Active Travel in South Dublin (cntd.)

of €5.2 million including VAT with works funded by the National Transport Authority. Initial traffic speed data in the area following the works shows a reduction of a 7-day average speed from 55 km/h to 40 km/h at the location of a new raised table pedestrian crossing on Killinenny Road which provide access to two primary schools.

Construction of the nearby Firhouse Road scheme next year will see this infrastructure connect directly to the Dodder Greenway enhancing regional active travel connectivity.

Castletymon Road Active Travel Scheme
Phase 1.2 of the Castletymon Road active travel scheme, running from the

Tymon Park entrance to Greenhills Road, is close to completion. This section will link to the completed Castletymon district enhancement and the earlier phase of works, further expanding the local cycle track network providing safer and sustainable travel options for local people.

The initial phase, measuring 1.2 kilometres, introduces new cycle tracks and improved crossings for pedestrians and cyclists at key junctions, connecting a district centre, three schools and several residential estates. The final phase, which will extend from Castletymon Road Library to Main Street, is expected to begin construction in 2026. Once finished, the Castletymon Road active

travel scheme will connect to the Dodder Greenway and the future Greenhills BusConnects scheme, significantly expanding the cycle network across Tallaght and the wider area.

This project is part of a national Pathfinder Programme, a collection of thirty-five transport initiatives designed to be exemplary and innovative, with the scheme trialling a new cycle-friendly kerb that is now serving as a model for similar projects across Ireland.

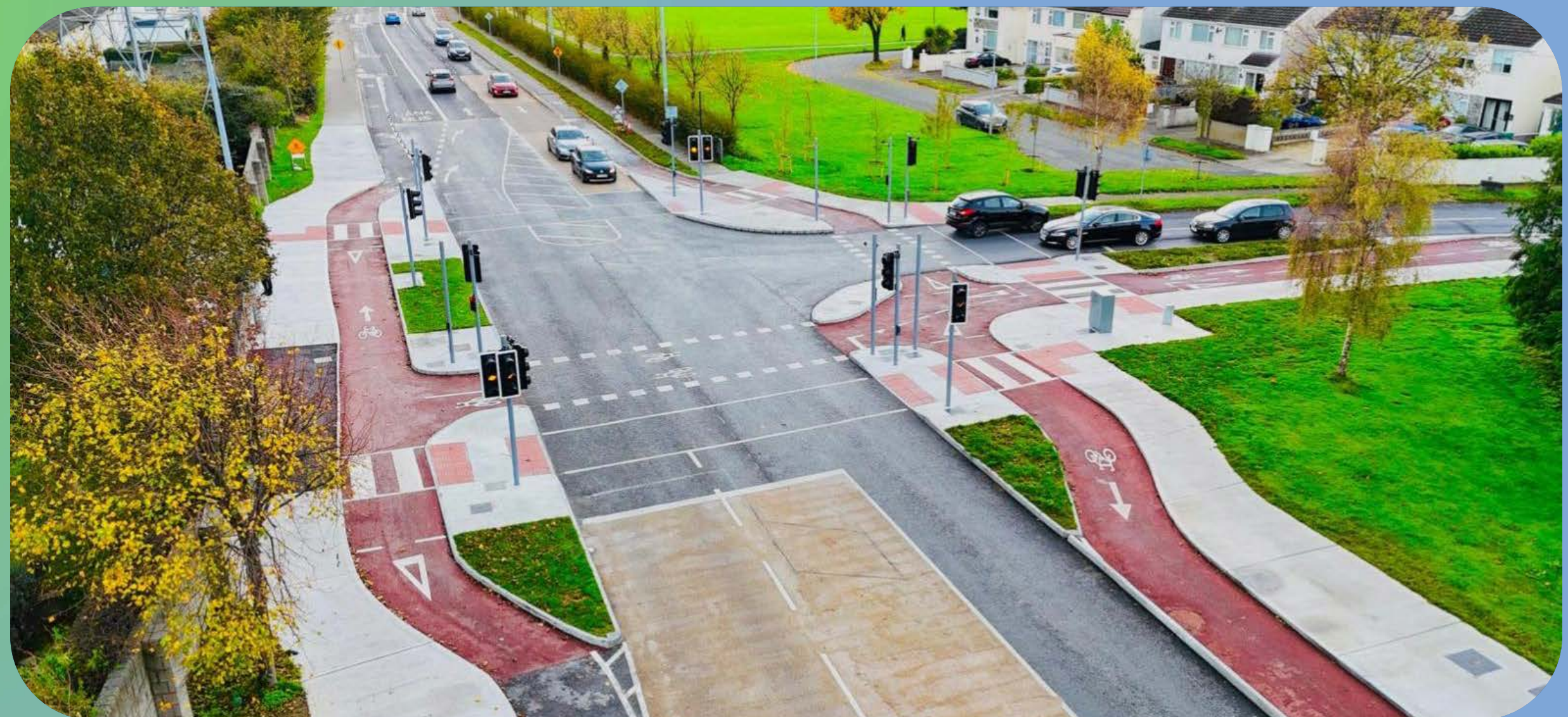
Grand Canal to Lucan Urban Greenway

Construction of phase one of the Grand Canal to Lucan Urban Greenway (Canal Loop) began in March this year and is expected to finish by the end of this year. By October, 80% of pathways were complete and approximately half of the park entrances are finished. When complete, the scheme will provide 2.2 kilometres of new greenway and

nearly one kilometre of links and spurs that provide connections to four schools as well as Lucan Sports & Leisure Centre, Griffeen Valley Park and local neighbourhoods.

The project also includes new public lighting, improved crossings and upgraded park entrances, all of which are designed to make movement easier for pedestrians and cyclists in line with universal design principles. In addition, more than one hundred new trees will be planted throughout the park, along with native and wildflower meadows and shrubs.

We are committed to progressing the next phase of the project, which will link the N4 to Lucan Village, and scheduling for this will be examined in the context of available funding and resources of our overall Cycle South Dublin programme.





Funding Management and Maintenance of our Social Housing Stock

With increased housing delivery over the last five years, SDCC currently manages over 10,500 social homes. However, this stock ranges in age from homes originally built in the middle of the 1900s right up to the high-quality modern homes added in recent years.

Given the profile of our housing stock, we are currently undertaking condition surveys to fully understand and plan for the scale of investment required to ensure a common quality standard for our social homes. 1,200 surveys have been commissioned so far and the initial results of these show a significant requirement for additional planned maintenance, energy efficiency and upgrade works for windows, kitchens, bathrooms, electrical and heating systems. As these surveys progress next year, we will develop a planned programme of investment to deliver these works over

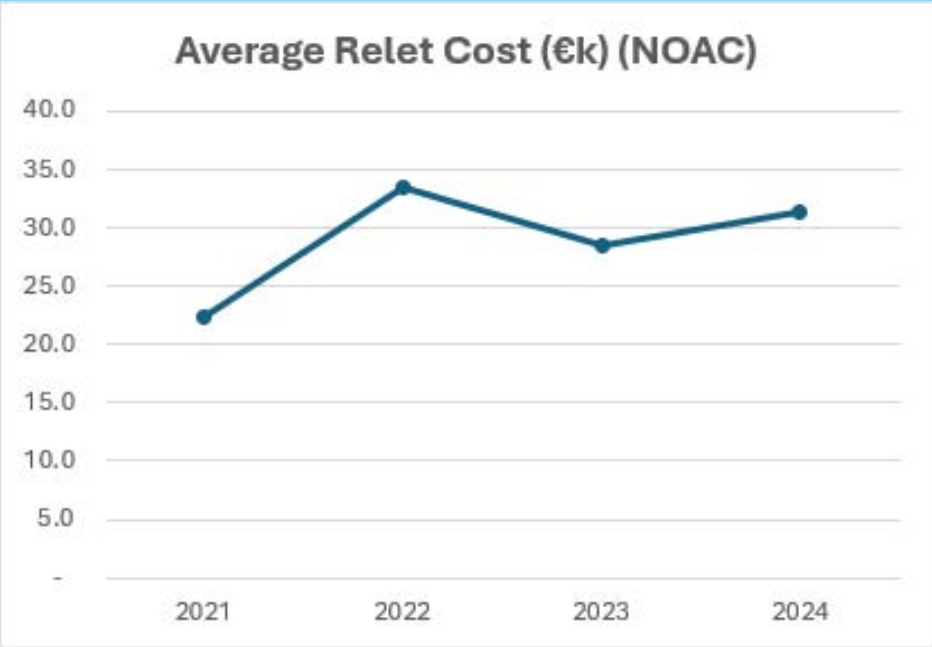
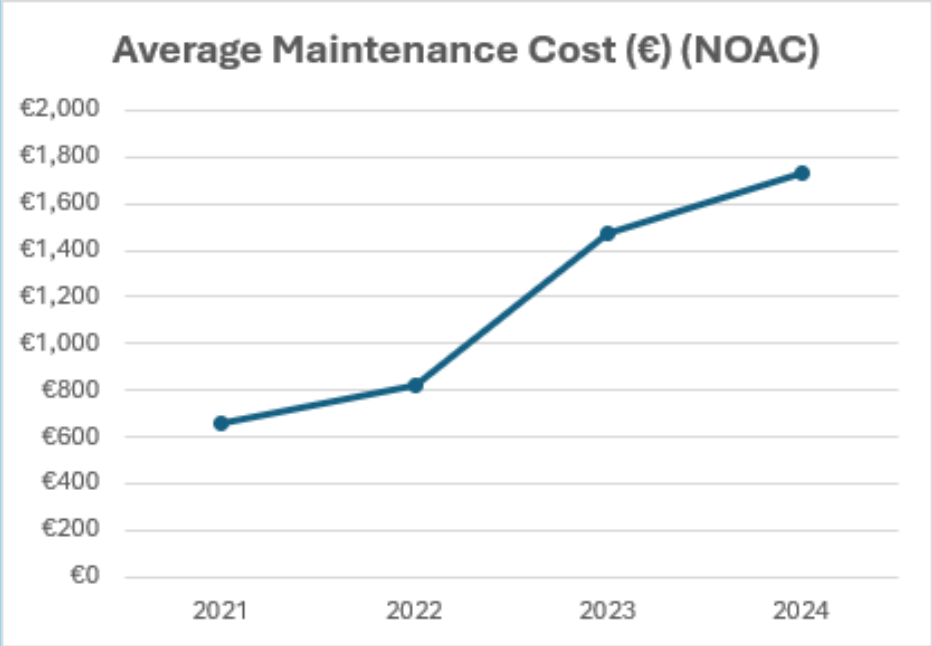
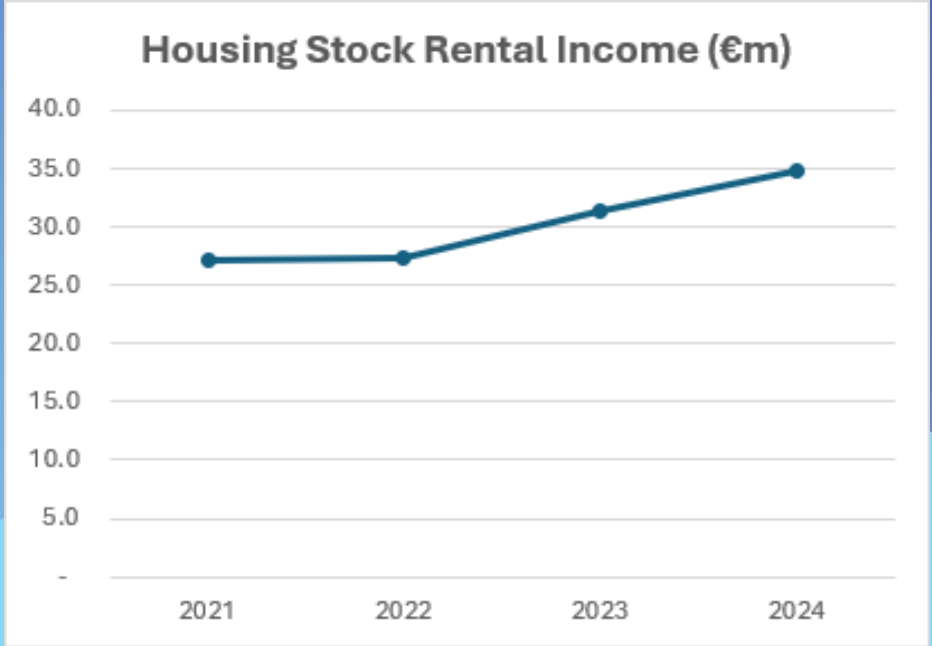
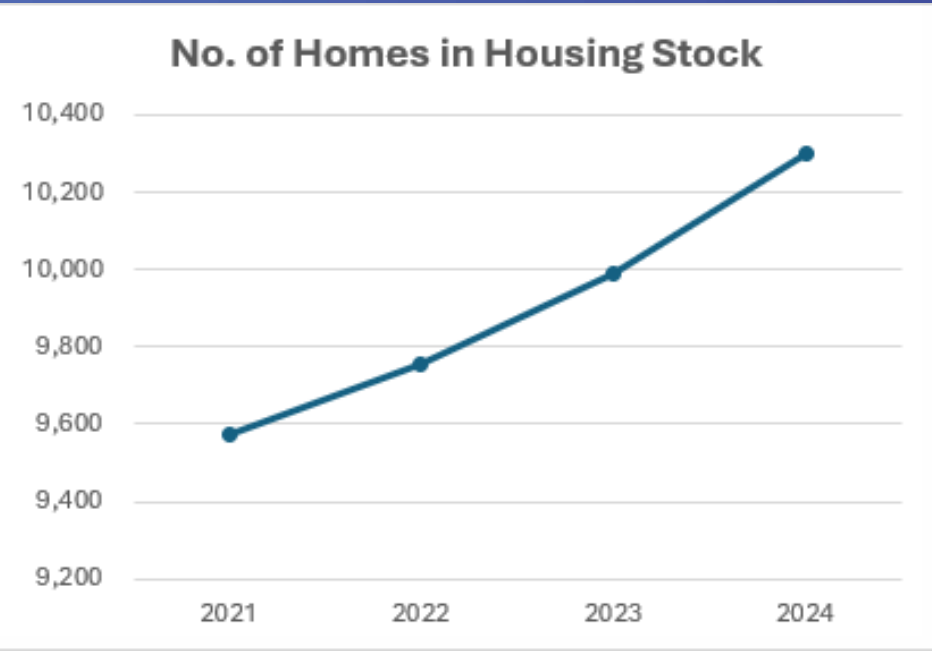
future years. The costs of such plans will be significant and, together with the impact of inflation and increased costs for materials, direct labour and contractors, coupled with increases to Local Property Tax and insurance and various other costs that are borne by the council in managing our housing stock, will necessitate additional funding. For example, in 2024 our average maintenance cost per unit reached €1,733 per home per annum and average relet costs were at €31,286, and that is without including many of the other management and upgrade costs that are involved in looking after a large housing stock.

Rental income has grown significantly in recent years, with €35m in income from our stock last year, and this is projected to continue to increase for 2025 and 2026 but is not anticipated to be sufficient to meet the level of investment required for response

and planned maintenance well as all other management costs beyond that. Borrowing for such investment would incur significant financing costs that would ultimately have to be funded from rental income anyway so the most sustainable and viable source of funding will be through a review of our differential rent scheme, particularly in the context of the historically low relative rents charged by SDCC for some households compared to other Dublin local authorities and indeed local authorities nationwide.

Independent and thorough analysis and comparison of differential rent schemes nationwide by the Local Government Audit Service is nearing completion and will provide a strong evidential basis for strategic adjustment of our differential rent scheme to address inequities in the current rent scheme along with ensuring that sufficient funding is in place to meet future social housing management and maintenance costs.

Each local authority currently has autonomy in determining how social housing rents are set through a differential rent scheme which is a function of the council's executive, and we are very conscious that any adjustments to the scheme must first and foremost be equitable and affordable for our tenants, while also being sufficient to meet all of the costs involved in managing, maintaining and upgrading our social homes in to the future. Accordingly, in 2026 we will present our social housing future investment plan to the Housing Strategic Committee along with the analysis supporting a review and overhaul of the current differential rent scheme to ensure long-term sustainable funding for the plan.



Quality Housing

Meet our Housing Maintenance Team

The SDCC housing maintenance team are committed to ensuring that our tenants' homes are safe, secure and well-maintained and we want to highlight their role in providing repair services to more than 10,000 properties managed by the council. Every day, our dedicated team of 45 skilled staff who operate from Jobstown Depot provide vital services to tenants across the county including fixing plumbing and carpentry issues or helping to get our recently vacant properties back into use for households to call home. The team includes a range of roles including engineers, clerk of works, foremen, plumbers, carpenters, plasters, painters, drivers, general operatives, and caretakers, delivering a wide range of services through direct labour along with managing works of specialist contractors who support their work.

We are continually working to improve the quality of services provided and the team's focus is on ensuring a responsive repair service to our tenants for both routine maintenance issues and emergencies, including out-of-hours work as required.

The team also manage an extensive programme of planned maintenance works including energy efficiency upgrades, window/door replacement, kitchen/bathroom upgrades and external refurbishments while partners carry out specialist works such as electrical repairs



Owen Leonard - & Stephen Doyle

and gas boiler servicing which are essential to ensure the comfort and safety of residents.

Last year the team carried out 12,252 response repairs to homes at a cost of €7.9million while we also delivered €15.5 million of works on pre-let repairs, planned maintenance and energy efficiency works. While there are continuing challenges with costs of delivering these services due to inflation and the costs of labour, materials and contractors, we have continued to increase our investment in the maintenance service with additional staff and funding to meet our responsibilities.

This is accompanied by the ongoing work by the team to improve the efficiency and technology associated with the service while also working to better support vulnerable and older tenants, ensuring their requests are handled with care and urgency, all with the aim of meeting our corporate objective of providing quality housing in South Dublin.



Stephen Doyle - Plasterer



Bob Conroy - Mobile Caretaker



John Lowe - Carpenter

A Thriving Economy



Women in Business Event at Work IQ

Meet the Entrepreneur, a women in business event, took place in Work IQ, Tallaght on 16 October as part of LEO South Dublin programme for its Network of Enterprising Women in South Dublin (NEWS). The key objectives of NEWS are to make it easy for local female businesswomen to develop mutually beneficial relationships with like-minded entrepreneurs and to support the development of women in business in the county.

For the event, Sarah Naylor hosted a fireside interview with Dr. Mamobo Ogoro, LEO South Dublin's ambassador for National Women's Enterprise Day. Mamobo is chief executive of Gorm Media and based in Rua

Red Arts Centre in Tallaght. Dr. Rosalind Beere, a serial entrepreneur, lecturer, presenter and author specialising in strategy and entrepreneurship, also spoke at the event.

Both speakers shared their entrepreneurial journeys and discussed how they consistently work on building their brands. They offered advice on engaging and following up with new clients. With approximately fifty people in attendance, the event was very well received and included a lively question and answer session with strong engagement from the audience.

National Women's Enterprise Day

National Women's Enterprise Day (NWED) took place on 16 October in Dublin City as part of Ireland's flagship event for women in business which is designed to celebrate and accelerate female entrepreneurship. The regional event, officially opened by Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment Peter Burke TD, was organised by the four Dublin Local Enterprise Offices. More than three hundred women attended on the day, with the event hosted by Dublin LEO Dublin City. Female founders and business leaders from all four local authority areas in Dublin were welcomed.

The day was led by Newstalk's Jess Kelly while Ciara Troy, founder of Oishii Foods, delivered the keynote address, sharing her journey from starting a Dublin market stall to building Ireland's leading handmade sushi brand. Helen McNulty, comedian, storyteller and businesswoman, also offered unique insights with a comedic twist.

Life and leadership coach Alana Kirk presented a spotlight session titled "What beliefs are holding you back, why you have them and how to bust them," aimed at helping women live a better, bolder, brighter life. Louise O'Connor from Rethink Digital Advisory led a session on embracing technology to achieve goals, drawing on her twenty years of experience in digital transformation.

The event also featured a fireside chat and panel discussion with the four Dublin #NWED ambassadors: Sylvia Kennedy

representing LEO Dublin City, Wynne Li from LEO Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown, Cuty Gupta representing LEO Fingal and Dr. Mamobo Ogoro of LEO South Dublin, and concluded with a closing address by Grainne Denning, Head of Enterprise at LEO Dublin City, who emphasised the importance of using LEO supports to grow businesses.

This was a great opportunity for networking and collaboration and participants were able to access lots of information on supports available from a range of agencies at the information stands on the day, ensuring lasting impact on the local women in business who were present.



A Thriving Economy



Fortivum Consulting Opens Headquarters at Work IQ

Fortivum Consulting, an Irish engineering firm, has officially opened its new headquarters at Work IQ in Tallaght, creating fifty highly skilled jobs and doubling its workforce.

The company delivers complex datacentre and infrastructure projects in seven countries and has chosen South Dublin as the hub for its international operations.

At the launch event, which was officially opened by Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment Peter Burke TD, chief executive Robert Tobin said, “This isn’t just about opening a new office, it’s about building something bigger. We’re creating opportunities for people to build exciting, global careers right here in Ireland.” This marks positive news for job creation in South Dublin and highlights the growing

role of Work IQ in supporting the growth and development of small and medium enterprises in the county.

Fortivum’s expansion includes a planned collaboration with Technological University Dublin (Tallaght Campus) to establish graduate learning pathways for engineers, project managers and technical specialists. This partnership demonstrates the role of Work IQ as a catalyst for collaboration between enterprise and education, a key objective of our economic strategy.

Through Work IQ, we are fostering an environment that supports innovation, skills development and sustainable economic growth, positioning Tallaght and the wider county as leaders in Ireland’s knowledge-driven economy.

LEO South Dublin Clients Growing with Aldi

Products from four clients of LEO South Dublin are now available in Aldi stores nationwide as part of Grow with Aldi this year. Garnacha, Happy Hour Foods, Niks Tea and Sadie’s Kitchen were all finalists in the programme, with their products on shelves since September.

Grow with Aldi, delivered in partnership with Bord Bia, supports Ireland’s most ambitious food and drink entrepreneurs. This year’s thirty finalists represented fifteen counties, each product reflecting innovation, passion and dedication to quality. After a trial period in one hundred sixty-four

Aldi stores, Aldi will award contracts to a select number of winners.

Best wishes to the LEO South Dublin clients: **Garnacha** is a small Irish-Mexican salsa brand run by Andrea from Mexico and Andrew from Ireland. **Happy Hour Foods** supplies Brazilian savoury snacks made with high quality Irish ingredients, ready in minutes. **Niks Tea** is an award-winning supplier of bespoke and speciality teas from around the world and **Sadie’s Kitchen** is an innovative food company specialising in delicious and nutritious bone broth.

South Dublin Chamber Awards 2025

More than 360 people attended the annual South Dublin Chamber Awards at the Maldron Hotel Tallaght on 16 October.

The event celebrated the best in business and provided local businesses with the chance to network, build new relationships and enjoy an evening that showcased the diverse range of successful businesses in the county.

The event was hosted by Marty Whelan and the business person of the year award went to John Kearns, chief executive of Partas. John has driven dynamic change in the local economy for many years, overseeing the launch of Tallaght’s new food market at Priory

Market and managing enterprise centres in Tallaght, Killinarden, Brookfield and The Edge – Bolbrook.

Other winners included An Cosán as best not-for-profit business, The Address CityWest as best place to eat, ACE Enterprise Park as best small business, Red Mountain as best start-up, Fanagans as best family-owned business and Jay Patel as best networker.

Other local businesses including TEC, Arcadia, SCD Leisure, Wilsons Auctions and Thorntons Recycling also received awards along with Sinead Murphy from AIB who received the employee of the year award.

A Better Place



Working Together for Safer Roads

East Coast local authorities, including SDCC, worked with roads policing on a multi-agency Project EDWARD Day—Every Day Without a Road Death—in September.

Project EDWARD Day is an annual road safety awareness initiative, highlighting the impact of collisions and aiming for one day each year free from road fatalities.

The initiative encourages all road users to pause and consider the risks they face, the risks they may pose to others, and how these risks can be reduced. Since its inception, Project EDWARD has grown each year, supported by governments, emergency services, road safety organisations and Irish businesses. Our road safety officer Orlaith Maguire

secured permission and support from the owners of Project EDWARD, a UK-based road safety initiative, to use the name in Ireland as part of the multi-agency day. The event was successful and marked the first time the Irish-based initiative achieved its goal—a full day without a road fatality.

National Road Safety Week began on 6 October, when we hosted a road safety themed day throughout the week and delivering road safety education programmes in participating schools.

The week concluded with National Child Safety Day on Friday, 10 October, featuring a road safety walk around Clondalkin village with students from St Joseph's BNS Clondalkin, supported by An Garda Síochána.

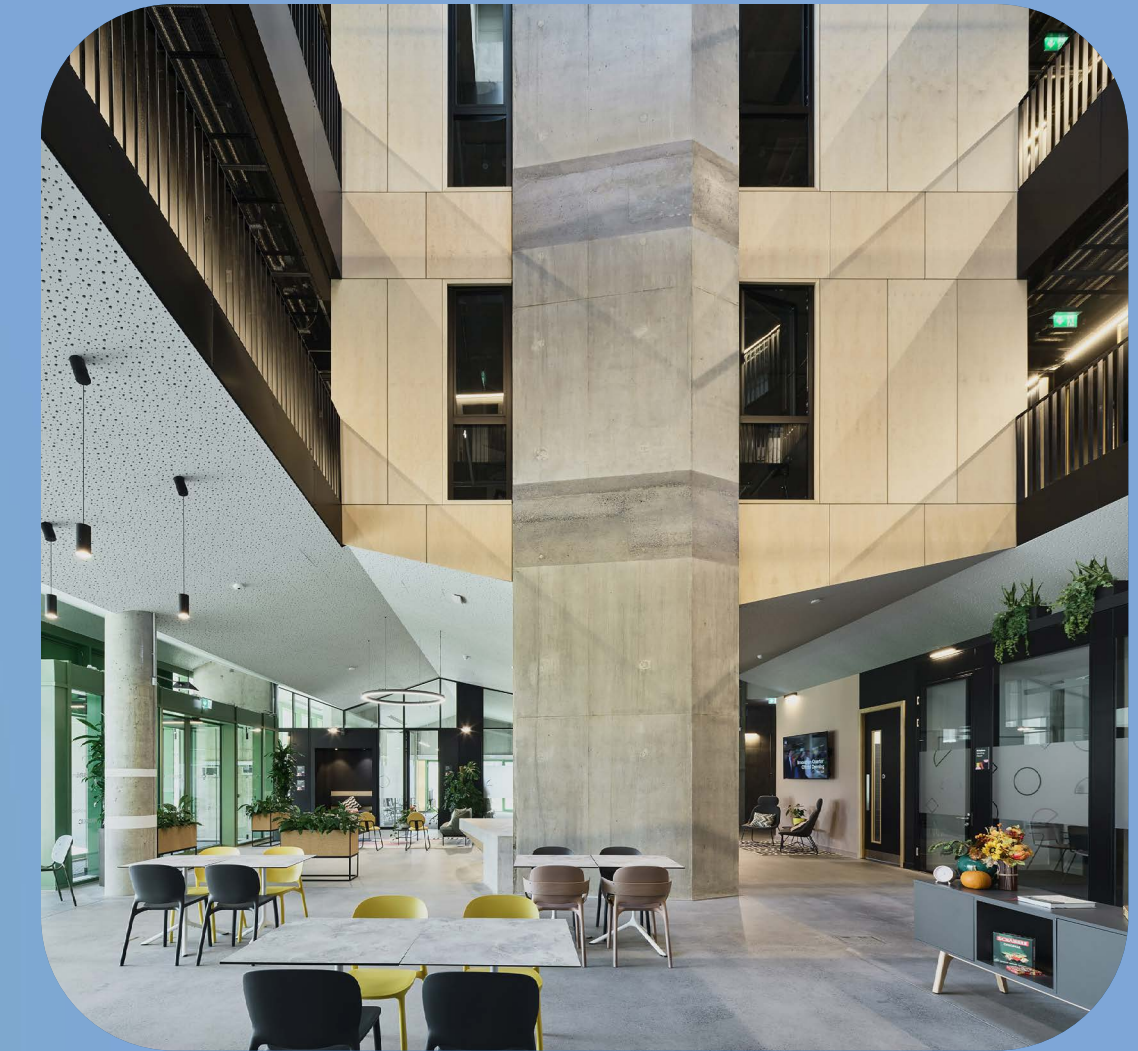
IPI Award Winner - Work IQ Innovation Centre

The Irish Planning Institute's awards ceremony took place at Clontarf Castle, Dublin, recognising excellence in planning. In 2025, the institute marks its fiftieth anniversary, celebrating five decades of commitment to sustainable development and community-focused planning across Ireland.

Outstanding projects were acknowledged, including Work IQ Innovation Centre, which received the award in the commercial project category for supporting a prosperous economy while integrating climate action and sustainable travel.

Nominations were also received for urban regeneration, with Connecting Communities Through the Regeneration of West Tallaght Parks, research and innovation for the housing supply monitor, and for the planning authority award.

The awards reflected a range of significant achievements in the planning profession throughout Ireland along with the role of planners in inspiring continued excellence in creating sustainable and vibrant communities.



2025 Accessibility Improvements

Additional funds totalling €400,000 were allocated in the council's 2025 budget to deliver a range of local accessibility improvements, with a particular focus on upgrading footpaths and installing dishings. In particular, the allocation supported an extension of the footpath network at Fonthill Road, while significant funding went towards upgrades at Anne Devlin Drive, Bawnlea Estate, Edenbrook Park, Elkwood, Esker Lawns, Killinarden Estate, Kilmartin Gardens, Lindisfarne Estate, Oakcourt Estate (dishings at all crossings),

Palmers Road, Riversdale Estate, St Patricks Cottages, Wheatfield Estate and Woodfarm Estate.

These enhancements aim to create safer, more inclusive public spaces for all residents, especially those with mobility needs, and we will continue to address any specific issues identified across the county so if there are accessibility challenges at particular locations please let us know by emailing info@sdblincoco.ie and we will aim to address them promptly.

Connected Communities



Magical Christmas Celebrations Across South Dublin!

Get ready for Christmas in South Dublin! There will be markets, music, and festive fun for everyone. Christmas Markets start on Friday, 28 November in Clondalkin, with local crafts, treats, and the lighting of the Christmas tree at the Civic Offices. On Friday 5 December, Parthalán Place will be illuminated as the venue for the South Dublin Christmas Markets, a festive day of food and craft stalls including the lighting of the tree with choral performances from local groups. This event aims to further establish Parthalán Place as a vibrant year-round community space.

The celebrations then continue across the county at the beautiful Lucan House on Sunday 7 December, and at the enchanting Rathfarnham Castle Park on Sunday 14 December. Each market will showcase talented local traders, seasonal food and

drink, and a wonderful festive atmosphere.

Adding even more sparkle to the season, the Ice Rink at The Square Shopping Centre, Tallaght, proudly supported by SDCC, opens on Friday 21 November, running right through to early January, offering families and friends the perfect place to glide into the Christmas mood.

And that's not all, the Christmas Circus also opens on Friday 21 November, at Lucan House, bringing laughter, wonder, and spectacular performances to delight audiences young and old.

So, wrap up warm, gather your loved ones, and join us as we celebrate Christmas across South Dublin with a season full of joy, entertainment, and community spirit.

Technological University Dublin Bursary Awards

The spirit of education and opportunity was celebrated as Mayor Pamela Kearns joined representatives from TU Dublin, South Dublin County Council's Community Department, and proud families for the annual Education Bursary Awards Ceremony, held on Tuesday, 14 October 2025, at Work IQ in the Innovation Quarter, Tallaght.

Under the initiative, 13 TU Dublin students received €2,500 towards their 2025–2026 academic costs: eight first-year and five second-year students are continuing their studies with the programme's support. Established in 2006 through a partnership between South Dublin County Council and TU Dublin, the Education Bursary Programme supports young people from partner DEIS schools in the county who may

face financial barriers to continuing their third-level education.

Mayor Kearns congratulated the students, praising their hard work and determination. "I am so pleased to celebrate your achievements and to see the lasting impact this programme has on young people across the South Dublin County Council area," she said, offering encouragement to the first-year students as they begin their academic journey, and commending the progress of the second-year students.

The Mayor also thanked TU Dublin for the continued partnership with SDCC, highlighting the shared commitment to, and importance of, education in local communities.



Cultural Richness



Bronntanas – Giving the gift of Irish!

Bronntanas, a new Irish language family arts festival, took place from 25 to 27 September and offered a weekend of engaging experiences designed to encourage parents and children to speak Irish together.

The festival began as an idea developed by our Irish Language Officer Muireann Ní Cheannabháin and was celebrated across the county through the Gaeilge 365 network, in partnership with Dublin City Council, Fingal County Council and Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council, with support from the Department of Rural and Community Development, the Gaeltacht, Glór na nGael and COGG.

Over thirty free events attended by 675

people, Bronntanas brought the Irish language to life for all ages and fluency levels. With 500 registrations, the 21-day home challenge Bronntanas Beo is designed to help families build new habits with Gaeilge sa bhaile. SDCC played a central role in shaping the festival's programme, collaborating with artists to create unique and interactive experiences for families.

Highlights included Biongó na nEachtrán with HK Ní Shioradáin, where families learned Irish through a fun bingo game with friendly aliens, and An Leabharlannaí Craiceáilte with Seán T. Ó Meallaigh, an interactive library performance full of laughter and vibrant language. Mistéir, led by Aideen McQueen and Louisa Ní

Éidéain, invited families to solve a live mystery using their Irish skills, while Cogadh Dearth with Cara Dunne offered a colourful team game for children and

parents. Every event was designed to create lasting memories and foster a love for the Irish language in family settings.





Redline Festival 2025

The Red Line Book Festival returned from 13 to 19 October this year, welcoming more than 5,500 attendees of all ages to over forty events across twelve venues. Curated and designed by the programming and events team in SDCC Libraries, the festival continues to position the county as a vibrant cultural hub, promoting literacy, learning, and community engagement.

This year's programme featured celebrated literary figures from Ireland and abroad. Acclaimed Bridget Jones creator Helen Fielding, Booker award winner Paul Lynch, renowned political correspondent Gavan Reilly, Irish language advocate Hector in conversation with Muireann O'Connell, and best-selling author John Connell were among the highlights.

Emerging writers were championed throughout the festival, with opportunities to share their work and connect with audiences. One notable event saw Tallaght native Luke Devlin discuss his debut novel with author Claire Hennessy in North Clondalkin Library.

Younger library users took centre stage with events designed to encourage creativity and fun. Alan Nolan's new play, Molly Malone and Bram Stoker in the Curious Case of the Irish Yeti, sold out all four shows in the Civic theatre main space. The Family Fun Day in Tallaght Library was a full day of sold-out activities, while Parthalán Place transformed into a colourful wonderland with music, games and literary

characters animating the space.

The Red Line Residency, supported by the Arts Office, remains a festival staple. Illustrator in Residence Celina Buckley worked with fifteen artists over five weeks, culminating in a curated exhibition launched in Ballyroan Library on the festival's opening night.

Accessibility and inclusion were prioritised this year. ISL interpretation was available at select events, buses operated from select libraries, and sensory spaces and activities were offered at various venues. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with particular praise for the inclusion of Irish Sign Language.

Local history featured with the launch of Tallaght: A Welcoming Space, an oral history project curated by Liz Gillis and launched by Cllr. Pamela Kearns. The project includes contributions from notable Tallaght residents, reflecting on their lives and the changes in the area over the years.

The continued success of the Red Line Book Festival reflects SDCC's commitment to fostering creativity, literacy and cultural participation. This year's festival once again demonstrated the power of books and storytelling to connect people, spark ideas and celebrate creativity throughout the county.



People First



Accessibility Week 2025

SDCC is looking forward to celebrating Accessibility Week 2025, running 3 – 10 December. The week begins on International Day of Persons with Disabilities and ends on International Human Rights Day, signifying the reality of disability rights as human rights.

Accessibility Week raises awareness about disability, equality, and inclusion, and celebrates wellbeing and accessibility across the county.

We're planning a lively week of activities, including:

- A social media campaign

- Inclusive sports events
- Special activities in libraries

A highlight of the week will be an interactive staff workshop with human rights expert Niall Crowley, taking place in the SDCC Foyer on 10th December.

The session will look at how the Council meets its responsibilities under Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty, which sets out our equality and human rights obligations.

The full schedule of events will be shared soon — stay tuned!

Staff Safety and Wellbeing Seminar

As part of our annual Safety and Wellbeing Seminar, Staff attended an engaging and thought-provoking theatre performance of “Distraction” on 21 October as part of the annual safety and wellbeing seminar. The production by Theatre at Work highlighted how small lapses in concentration while driving can have serious consequences. The performance introduced the important theme of safe driving in an entertaining way and sparked conversations long after the curtain fell.

Leo Lieghio, vice president of the Irish Road Victims' Association, shared his personal story about the human impact

of road traffic collisions following the death of his daughter Marsia twenty years ago.

Leo offered a powerful reminder of the need to improve road safety for everyone. The Irish Road Victims' Association provides free support to victims and families, including counselling, legal advice and help through investigations and court proceedings. This seminar is a key event in the staff calendar each year, giving both outdoor and indoor staff the chance to come together, reflect and refresh.



County Matters

Our Strategy to respond to the Revised Housing Growth Requirements

SDCC has conducted a detailed analysis of current zoned land capacity and a deliverability assessment for residential development in the County to respond to the National Planning Framework (NPF) Implementation Guidelines for Housing Growth Requirements.

The revised NPF sets a target for us to deliver approximately 47,000 new homes by 2040, with annual targets of 3,270 units up to 2034 and 2,414 units thereafter. The Settlement Capacity Audit found that currently zoned land could accommodate about 35,480 dwellings by 2040, with an additional 21,695 units possible on long-term zoned land.

However, the deliverability assessment reveals a significant challenge: by 2028, we are forecasting a shortfall of 2,086 homes compared to the baseline target

of 11,699 units for that period. This gap widens to over 10,000 units by 2040 unless further lands are zoned and activated. The assessment highlights that, while the current rate of housing delivery is strong and on target for previous target, the pipeline of available zoned lands is insufficient to meet the increased housing targets.

The main constraint is the limited supply of immediately developable land, especially as some key non-strategic sites have already been built out. To address this, the Chief Executive will prepare a proposed variation to the Development Plan to zone additional land capable of delivering up to c7,900 homes. This figure covers both the anticipated shortfall and the “additional provision” recommended by national guidelines, ensuring flexibility and resilience in the housing supply pipeline.



Site selection will be guided by robust criteria: sites must support compact growth, be within or adjacent to the built-up area, have access to high-capacity public transport, be serviceable within five years, and offer or enable social infrastructure. Sites should be free from significant legal, environmental, or servicing constraints.

To ensure transparency and public engagement, we have commenced a non-statutory consultation (23rd October – 13th November) calling for lands to be put forward which meet our suitability criteria which align with national, regional and local planning and environmental policy. This evidence-based, criteria-driven approach aims to ensure South Dublin can sustainably meet its housing needs and national policy objectives.

Additionally, we are focused on long-term planning and the Chief Executive

recommends earmarking new Strategic Development Areas (SDAs) to enable a plan led approach to strategic transport-oriented development, ensuring that the Council can respond flexibly to future housing needs beyond 2030.

Through these measures—zoning additional residential land, engaging the public, and planning for future SDAs—we are aiming to ensure that South Dublin can sustainably meet its housing needs and national policy objectives, balancing growth with community and environmental priorities.

The Chief Executive's report, detailing these findings and recommendations, was formally presented at the October Council meeting and has been circulated to both the Office of the Planning Regulator (OPR) and the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage.



County Matters

New Facilities at Tymon Park

Tymon Park has recently seen the opening of new and welcome additions that further enhance SDCC's largest regional park.

Our Mayor, Cllr. Pamela Kearns, officially opened the new Tymon Park Centre on 28 October. This fantastic new public building is designed to provide flexible indoor and outdoor space for small and medium sized events and activities for the local community. The centre also hosts the Park House Café, which is operated by local partners Eala (or Swan). This is a long-awaited and hugely welcome facility for the local area providing a space for the community to meet and mingle, with indoor and outdoor seating overlooking the lake, along with accessibility enhancements and facilities for park users and an upgrade of the park entrance area

from Wellington Road with bee-friendly planting.

The new centre is designed to integrate with and enhance Tymon Park with a community space that grows out of the existing stone walls and around an existing tree. The café opens to the park with its glazed façade, feature canopy and extensive terrace, embracing a south facing aspect onto the adjacent lake. The project has also delivered an extremely attractive landscaped bio-retention area by the lake which sustainably manages the surface water from the scheme. This small pond is surrounded with pollinator friendly planting and is cleaning and filtering surface water run-off and supporting pollinators with colourful plants and flowers. The green roof on the building has



been seeded with meadow seeds, which we harvested from local award-winning pollinator meadows within the park, and will support birds and other wildlife as well as managing surface water in a sustainable way.

This overall project under our three-year capital programme was approximately €3m and meets a corporate commitment to supporting investment in community infrastructure with a focus on enhancing local parks.

SDCC's Parks and Architects teams, along with consultant architects, Cotter & Naessens Ltd., carried out planning, design and project management work on this project and the construction work was carried out by James Oliver Hearty and Sons Ltd.

The Park House Café is now open to the public, with Éala serving great coffee and a selection of snacks throughout the day. The community space within the centre

will be available for bookings by local community groups shortly and can be booked online at www.sdcc.ie.

In a further enhancement to Tymon Park earlier this month, Mayor Kearns officially launched the new "Guardians of the Forest" fairy trail in Tymon Park alongside local students from Scoil Íosa. This new fairy trail has been developed to encourage families and children to explore the park and connect with nature in a creative way.

The trail features nine fairy houses and three carved guardians watching over the woodland and was delivered by our public realm team at a cost of approximately €97,000.

For further information on these projects, please contact communications@sdblincoco.ie.

Finance Report

Billing and Collection Statement

	Arrears @ 31 Dec 2024	Adopted Budget 2025	Billed to 17th October 2025	Rec'ts/Credits to 17th October 2025	Arrears @ 17th October 2025	% of BILLED income achieved
<i>Via Billing Systems</i>						
Commercial Rates	€13,665,414	€153,170,200	€154,977,169	€144,145,866	€24,496,717	93%
Entry Year Property Levy (PEL)	€103,598	n/a	€0	€25,398	€78,200	0%
Housing Rents	€7,910,111	€36,293,800	€30,438,005	€30,359,277	€7,988,839	100%
Housing RAS Rents	€1,267,971	€2,246,400	€1,660,318	€1,635,625	€1,292,665	99%
<i>Via Cash Systems</i>						<i>% of Budget Income Achieved</i>
NPPR Charge	n/a	€20,000	n/a	€12,387	€0	62%
Planning Fees	n/a	€972,000	n/a	€920,204	€0	95%
Fire Certificates	n/a	€1,000,000	n/a	€437,759	€0	44%
Parking Fees	n/a	€820,000	n/a	€619,203	€0	76%
Uisce Eireann	-€129,924	€6,937,500	€4,791,552	€3,991,546	€670,082	58%
	€22,817,170	€201,459,900	€191,867,044	€182,147,264	€34,526,503	

Rents Aged Debt				Rates Aged Debt			PEL Aged Debt		
Category	Numbers	Amounts	% of Accounts	Year	Bal O/S	%	Year	Bal O/S	%
Accounts not in Arrears	6331	2,761,912	59%	2025	16,121,497	66%	2025	€0	0%
0-6 weeks	1952	399,853	18%	2024	3,129,520	13%	2024	€0	0%
7-12 weeks	444	318,099	4%	2023	1,663,428	7%	2023	€4,863	6%
13-18 weeks	278	340,349	3%	2022	593,596	2%	2022	€65,850	84%
19-24 weeks	224	379,989	2%	2021	578,190	2%	2021	€1,676	2%
25-52 weeks	607	1,827,300	6%	2020	71,184	0%	2020	€2,637	3%
1 - 2 years	487	2,655,728	5%	2019	742,249	3%	2019	€232	0%
Greater than 2 years	482	4,829,433	4%	Pre 2019	1,597,054	7%	Pre 2019	€2,943	4%
Totals	10,805	€7,988,839	100%	Totals	€24,496,718	100%	Totals	€78,200	100%



Red Line Book Festival



Launch of Climate Action Story Map



Junior Safety Forum Workshop at County Hall



Road Safety Walk with St. Joseph's NS



Launch of New MUGA at Jobstown Park



Opening of New Makerspace at North Clondalkin Library



Launch of Fairy Trail at Tymon Park



Cyber Security talks at St. Joseph's in Lucan



Day of the Dead Food Tasting at Round Tower Visitor Centre





Spookdalkin at the Round Tower Visitor Centre





Tymon Park Fairy Trail

Socials

Facebook
X

Instagram
YouTube

Website

www.sdcc.ie

Corporate Plan

corporateplan.sdcc.ie

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