



Comhairle Contae  
Átha Cliath Theas  
South Dublin County Council



June 2021

# Chief Executive's Report

Africa Day launch in Balgaddy

# About the Chief Executive's Report

South Dublin County Council's Chief Executive's Report is presented to elected members at Council every month and details important achievements across our various departments whilst highlighting key statistics and images from events that took place that month.

The report also highlights major news pieces and puts a focus on an area of the Council that doesn't always get the attention it deserves.

# Contents



## 04 LUPT

Highlights from Land Use Planning and Transportation.



## 06 Housing Social and Community Development

## 22

### Statistics Report



## 24

### Finance Report



## 08

### Economic, Enterprise and Tourism Development

## 25

### Images of the Month

## Features

### 14 Housing Delivery

Minister O'Brien commended the Council on housing delivery as work progresses on 1,100 home initiatives.

### 16 Pitch Booking System

The Council officially launched the new online Pitch Allocation and Booking System.

### 18 Heatworks Sod-turning

Sod has been turned on the Council's Heatworks initiative, Ireland's first publicly owned, not-for-profit energy company.

### 20 Council Focus

A look at gender representation in South Dublin County Council.



## 10

### Corporate Performance and Change Management



## 12

### Environment, Water and Climate Change

# Land Use, Planning and Transportation



## Foot and Cycle Paths

In March, the Roadworks, Footpath and Cycle path repair programme was discussed and agreed by Council. This programme consists of 93 schemes across the County. Roll out of the programme was delayed due to COVID 19 however works have now commenced and we are confident that the full programme of works will be delivered within the year. Area engineers prepared the documentation so that contractors could tender. The breakdown of works is as follows:

- 3 schemes are complete,
- 19 schemes are on-site and works are progressing,
- 67 schemes are getting ready to get on-site with current works including; appointment letters, Map road licences, insurance checks,
- 4 schemes are currently being designed and will then be tendered.

In addition, Council depot crews continue to deliver repair and maintenance works across the County.



## N81 Resurfacing

During 2021 there will be additional road resurfacing works carried out along the N81. The main part of the 2021 scheme, which includes safety works, will commence at Oldbawn Intersection and continue westward to the Jobstown junction. A small section of works (300m) will also be carried out from Greenhills Road eastwards to Avonmore Junction. We hope to start works on-site in August.

## Cycle Parking Update

Cycling numbers in Dublin have more than doubled over the last decade. This increase means there is much more demand for cycle parking in South Dublin County. To keep up with this demand, the Council installed 254 spaces for bikes across the county in 2020. This work included bike parking for approximately 160 bikes across several schools, and areas for over 90 bikes across town and district centres, including many bike cargo stands.

Having received a budget of €250,000 from the NTA for 2021, South Dublin County Council will deliver a significantly increased number of bike parking facilities

this year, and we expect to provide over 500 bike parking spaces across schools and sports clubs. It is hoped that this will encourage and support active travel at the grassroots level throughout our communities which will, in turn, benefit children and adults of all ages.

As a result, we are now actively inviting applications from schools, sporting clubs and associations, and are delighted with the level of applications received to date. The closing date for applications is 30 June 2021. Applications can be submitted through the Council's consultation portal.



### Cycle Parking

The Council is due to deliver increased numbers of bike parking facilities.

## County Development Plan

The Chief Executive (CE) Draft Development Plan was submitted to the Members on 5 May. The period to submit motions on the CE Draft closed on 28 May. During May six briefing sessions on the Draft plan were offered to elected members, covering issues including housing numbers, land-use zoning, density, building heights and area specific issues. Special Development Plan meetings will take place this month with the last meeting due to take place on 24 June. At this last meeting, the Plan will be deemed to be the Draft Plan and will then go on public display on 7 July for over ten weeks to 15 September.



Meetings regarding the County Development Plan are ongoing.

# Housing, Social and Community Development



## Handbook for Local Residents' Associations

South Dublin County Council launched a new Residents' Association Handbook on Thursday 27 May aimed at helping Residents' Associations in the set up and running of their groups.

The handbook is a step by step guide of how to set up and effectively run a Residents' Association. Including sections on the establishment of a Residents' Association, such as roles and responsibilities and a constitution, to everyday requirements like running productive meetings and communications, to useful templates and contact information, the handbook covers everything you will need to help you establish and run a Residents' Association.

Speaking at the launch, Mayor Ed O'Brien said, "This handbook is an innovative venture and will prove particularly useful for new Residents' Associations. Given the amount of development that is currently in South Dublin County, I think residents of the new estates will find the handbook invaluable as they set up their Residents Associations and develop their local communities."

Also present at the launch were members of Daletree Residents' Association in Ballycullen. The association has been re-established in the last year, and having read the handbook, Denise McCann, said, "It is excellent, and will be really great for anyone starting out on setting up an association. It gives you point by point exactly what you need to do."



**Local Resident's Associations**  
A new handbook was launched in May for Local Resident's Associations.

## Africa Day 2021

The Mayor of South Dublin County, Cllr Ed O'Brien was joined by Colm Brophy, T.D., Minister of State for Overseas Development Aid and Diaspora at an event in Balgaddy Child and Family Centre on Monday 24 May as part of a range of celebrations to mark Africa Day 2021.

The Council collaborated with Gomba Educare to provide an interactive storytelling session for young children in Balgaddy. The children were transported into another world through beautifully crafted songs and stories, followed by a fun and educational quiz about Africa.

## Community Bus

The Mayor of South Dublin County, Cllr Ed O'Brien along with the Council's Chief Executive Daniel McLoughlin and Superintendent Ian Lackey from An Garda Síochána were delighted to welcome the new community bus at Tallaght Garda Station on Friday 21 May 2021.

The Council provided €35,000 funding for the new community bus which will provide a key link between Gardaí and the local community particularly as we emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic and it can support a range of activities including school completion projects, late night football leagues, and various events for both young people and older persons' groups.



## Age Friendly Alliance Restarts

The first virtual meeting of the South Dublin County Age Friendly Alliance meeting was opened by the Mayor on 20 May 2021. The Alliance, which has been reconvened under the recently adopted County Age Friendly Strategy, will oversee progress towards an age friendly South Dublin County and consists of representatives from Tus Nua Older Persons' Council and Councillor Trevor Gilligan.



Minister of State, Colm Brophy, joined us for the launch of Africa Day 2021.

# Economic, Enterprise and Tourism Development



## 500 Words

South Dublin Libraries ran a short story competition, entitled 500 Words, for young writers in South Dublin County during the COVID-19 related lockdown in 2020. The competition had a huge response with nearly ninety stories submitted from children of all ages.

The aim of the 500 Words project was to encourage all children to enjoy the creativity of writing and find a way to express themselves and their ideas during a difficult time in their lives.

The project was such a success that South Dublin Libraries decided to publish the stories as a collection. All of the children who took part have received a copy and it will be available to borrow from all South Dublin libraries. The collection is also available as an e-book on Borrowbox following an online book launch on 25 May with contributions from children's writers and congratulations messages from President Michael D. Higgins, Ryan Tubridy and more.



## Outdoor Dining Scheme

South Dublin County Council is accepting applications for financial support under a new scheme for tourism and hospitality businesses in South Dublin County. Details on the scheme, which offers grants of up to €4,000 per applicant, and how to apply can be found on the Council's website by searching for 'Outdoor Dining'. The scheme will remain open until 30 September 2021.

## New enterprise space for South Dublin County

A new enterprise space has opened in Bolbrook. 'The Edge' is a new style incubation hub by Partas, offering 900 sq.m. of flexible co-working space and private rental office spaces for new businesses to set up and grow in South Dublin County.

The project cost €1.2m, largely funded through the Regional Enterprise Development Fund administered by Enterprise Ireland. Further funding was provided by SEAI, Partas with South Dublin County Council providing match funding of €200,000.

The Edge, which involved the re-design and refurbishment of an old community enterprise centre, has

just been completed and is now open for enquiries for new business residents. The physical space has been re-configured to maximise the range of accommodation which includes – hot-desking; co-working; single private pods; multi-person units, hangout areas and a large communal space doubling as an artisan coffee house, which will also open to the public and proving to be very popular to walkers on the Dodder Greenway who traverse the pedestrian bridge which runs alongside the rear of The Edge.

Find out more at [www.theedgeublin.com](http://www.theedgeublin.com).



### New enterprise space

The Edge enterprise space has been opened in Bolbrook.

## Portraits in Pastel

An exhibition by local artist Rosie Fleming was opened by Mayor Ed O'Brien and the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, Catherine Martin TD on Saturday 22 May at Ballyroan Library. Francis Duffy TD and Councillor Emma Murphy also attended the launch.

The exhibition, Portraits in Pastel, is a collection of portraits of people and animals, including a series on Irish native dog breeds, and is currently available to see in Ballyroan Library.



The Mayor and Minister Catherine Martin opened the Portraits in Pastel exhibition.

# Corporate Performance and Change Management



## Water Safety

Around five people are lost to drowning every fortnight in Ireland, that is 127 on average every year. Rivers account for more fatalities to drowning than any other aquatic site. With the increase in open water swimming since COVID began, it is useful to remember that you should follow this rule of thumb when swimming: "Get in warm, get out warm". Other tips to follow this summer include:

- The sensible way to acclimatise to cold water is to swim in it regularly. Then gradually extend your time in the water with practice,
- Only swim at designated bathing areas where life-guards are on duty,
- Make sure you can be seen,
- Wear a brightly coloured swimming cap and bring a brightly coloured tow float so other water users can see you.

Should you ever come across a person in distress in the water then use one of the ring buoys that have been erected by South Dublin County Council and use it to save their lives.

**www.SDCCJobs.ie**

South Dublin County Council is always keen to attract and retain talented and motivated people, from diverse backgrounds and experiences, who will take pride in their work and make a positive difference to the lives of citizens in South Dublin County. If you are looking to make your contribution to this County's development, then keep an eye on [www.sdccjobs.ie](http://www.sdccjobs.ie) for job opportunities.

## Celebrating Pride

Each June, South Dublin County Council flies the Pride flag over County Hall Tallaght and Civic Offices Clondalkin. We do this to show our support, and respect, to LGBTQ+ members of our staff, county, and wider society.

South Dublin County Council has demonstrated a strong and ongoing commitment to LGBTQ+ equality and the LGBTQ+ community through a variety of actions. In addition to flying the Pride flag:

- The Transgender Pride flag is flown on 31 March for International Transgender Day of Visibility.
- Council policies, plans and staff forms are equality proofed on an ongoing basis.

- The South Dublin County Council LGBTQ+ Staff Network was founded in October 2017 and anyone who identifies on the LGBTQ+ spectrum who is directly employed by the Council, or who is a retired or former employee, is welcome to join. Membership is free of charge.

The theme for Dublin Pride 2021 is Community, with a focus on promoting the vital work of LGBTQ+ organisations and services and events are taking place throughout June. To find out more, please visit [www.dublinpride.ie](http://www.dublinpride.ie).



## Annual General Meeting

The Council's Annual General Meeting will be held on Friday 25 June. The Annual General Meeting is an important date in the Council's schedule as we elect a new Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Chairs of each Area Committee. Tributes are also paid to the outgoing Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

Due to ongoing public health guidelines relating to COVID-19, the meeting will take place online. These meetings are open to the public. To attend, please email [meetingsadmin@sdblincoco.ie](mailto:meetingsadmin@sdblincoco.ie) by 5pm on the Friday before the meeting.



A new Mayor will be elected at the upcoming Annual General Meeting.

# Environment, Water Climate Change



## New callisthenics and functional workout area at Tymon Park

The first purpose-built callisthenics and functional workout area in the State has been opened in Tymon Park.

The equipment, the first of its kind in Ireland, is specifically designed for competitive callisthenics training and is expected to become very popular with park users. The aim of the installation is to empower people to create healthy habits, allowing them to improve their own physical and mental well-being through exercising in a public park.

Callisthenics is a form of physical training focused on teaching you to master your own bodyweight using

minimal equipment.

South Dublin County Council also plans to create and promote a range of instructional videos for the equipment that visitors to Tymon Park will be able to access through a QR code located at the workout area. These will be promoted on the Council's website and social media channels as well.

The new callisthenics and functional workout area has already proven to be a great attraction for Tymon Park with high usage of the equipment and positive reports from the public.



### Callisthenics in Tymon

A new callisthenics and functional workout area at Tymon Park is open.

## Climate Action Week

The first ever Dublin Climate Action Week will take place from 13 – 19 September 2021. The week will showcase Dublin's climate action progress to its citizens and demonstrate the leadership role of the four local authorities in conjunction with other partners.

The programme of events will be launched in August when members of the public can register to attend events if they interest them.

To find out more about what is happening over the week keep an eye on our website, [www.sdcc.ie](http://www.sdcc.ie) and our social media pages.

Climate Action Week takes place in September.

## Astro Pitch in Sean Walsh

South Dublin County Council has commenced a Part 8 (planning) process for a new Astro Pitch at Sean Walsh Park, Tallaght.

The Council completed a Sports Pitch Strategy in 2020 which outlined several recommendations to ensure the supply of sports pitches to meet the projected growth in demand for active, pitch-based recreation over the next 15 years.

The provision of artificial grass pitches at strategic locations will provide increased pitch capacity to meet increased population growth in higher density/ urban locations as they provide all weather, year-round facilities.

Submissions or observations with respect to the proposed development may be made in writing up to 5pm on 2nd July 2021 and may be submitted on the Council's consultation portal.



## Climate Change Newsletter

The Council published the second edition of our online Climate Change Newsletter, which aims to keep the citizens of the County informed on progress being made in delivering the actions of the Climate Change Action Plan. The second edition focused on transport and active travel in the County. The newsletter can be found in the news section of the Council's website



# Council delivering on Housing Initiatives



**Minister O'Brien commended South Dublin County Council on housing delivery as work progresses on 1,100 home initiatives.**

**M**inister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Darragh O'Brien TD joined the Mayor of South Dublin County, Cllr Ed O'Brien, and South Dublin County Council Chief Executive Daniel McLoughlin, as work ramped up on South Dublin County Council's joint venture development of 1,034 homes at Kilcarbery in Clondalkin, Dublin 22.

The mixed tenure development, on

72.8 acres of council lands at Kilcarbery will include 310 social housing units or 30% of the development. The council has just completed an allocated 109 social homes immediately adjacent to this site.

Adwood Ltd, a consortium of established Dublin builders Adroit and Maplewood, will develop the site having been chosen on foot of a competitive process. South Dublin County Council

## Right-sized Homes

Right-sizing recognises that the needs of older persons are diverse and that few older people reside in a property that supports that ageing. Right-sizing provides the opportunity for a better quality of life for older persons by offering them access to homes that will meet their evolving needs now and into the future.

Currently, South Dublin County Council has 365 homes designated for older persons with a further planned supply of more than 200 and several additional sites undergoing feasibility studies and concept design work.

will receive €38m for the site which will be built out over 4 years including the 310 social housing units which will be delivered at competitive build rates averaging €166,000 per unit.

Acknowledging state support through the Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund (LIHAF) of €2m, the developer has also committed to delivering 50 homes at prices discounted to the market.

In addition, 74 homes will now be delivered as cost rental units by Tuath Housing and will be available at significant discount to market rents. The development also includes an 847 sq.m. community building which will be handed over to South Dublin County Council. A crèche and retail

unit will also be included as part of the development.

The Kilcarbery development is a significant part of the Council's €1 billion investment plan for building 4,500 new homes in the County in the coming years.

During his visit to South Dublin County, Minister O'Brien was also shown a new 'right-sizing' housing development at Whitestown Way, Tallaght. The development consists of 81 homes for older persons and is being delivered by Clúid Housing on council lands.



**Minister O'Brien visited sites in Whitestown Way and Kilcarbery.**

# Pitch Allocation System Launched



**On Wednesday 2 June 2021, Mayor of South Dublin County Council Cllr Ed O'Brien officially launched the new online Pitch Allocation and Booking System.**

South Dublin County Council is excited to announce that all pitches will be available to book online through the South Dublin County Council's website [www.sdcc.ie/bookapitch](http://www.sdcc.ie/bookapitch), with booking software provided by Dublin-based sports facility management software, Bookapitch.

This new technology will make the annual pitch allocation and booking process, easy to use, and accessible to

all clubs who wish to avail themselves of South Dublin County Council pitches.

Clubs will be invited to register online and submit their annual application forms through the new system which has streamlined the process. Clubs will be issued a link to their allocated pitch allowing them to book time slots within their club for the various team games throughout the season.

## Pitch Strategy

South Dublin County Council commissioned 4global Consulting in 2019 to prepare a Sports Pitch Strategy (SPS), to provide the Council with a clear evidence base and set of recommendations for future outdoor sports facility development across the County. The strategy was developed to ensure the Council best serve the current and future population of the County.

A review of the allocation system was just one of the recommendations of the strategy, which included maintenance measures, the provision of new grass and artificial grass pitches and more.

Pitch usage data collected from the system will help inform South Dublin County Council's pitch maintenance schedule and capital investment programme.

The new allocation system was developed as part of the Council's overall Pitch Strategy. The Council also has plans to meet the need for new pitch provision in areas of population growth with pitches planned or underway in locations like Rathcoole, Clonburris, Adamstown, Fortunestown and more.

With this new online pitch allocation and booking system, South Dublin County Council looks forward to making outdoor exercise more accessible for everyone.

Mayor Ed O'Brien said, "The new easy to use online booking system has streamlined the allocation process for sports clubs and has the potential to inform how the pitch maintenance programme is delivered across the County."



Tymon Park's callisthenics workout area

# Heatworks Sod Turning



**Sod turned on South Dublin County Council's Heatworks initiative, Ireland's first publicly owned, not-for-profit energy company.**

Ground has been broken on South Dublin County Council's (SDCC) Tallaght District Heating Network at TU Dublin in Tallaght. Trading as Heatworks, Ireland's first publicly owned, not-for-profit energy company, will provide low carbon heat to local community buildings.

Heatworks will begin supplying heat in early 2022, with initial customers being SDCC and the Tallaght campus

of the Technological University Dublin (TU Dublin). The council buildings heated by this project in the short term will include SDCC's County Hall and Tallaght County Library followed by 133 new affordable apartments and the Council's Innovation Building.

When Phase One is completed it is estimated that the project will reduce carbon dioxide emissions in the South Dublin County area by nearly

## Collaboration

The Tallaght District Heating company has contracted Fortum, a large Finnish energy supply company with extensive district-heating experience throughout Scandinavia and Eastern Europe, to carry out the design, installation, and operation of the Tallaght network.

The collaboration between SDCC, AWS engineering teams, Fortum eNext, and the City of Dublin Energy Management Agency (CODEMA) has resulted in a low-carbon solution optimising the potential of recyclable heat combined with additional heat-pump technology – the first example of its kind in Ireland.

1,500 tonnes per year. The system will initially heat 47,000 m2 of public sector buildings, 3,000m2 of commercial space, and 135 affordable rental apartments.

The Tallaght District Heating Network is partly funded by the European Union's Inter-Reg NWE programme (Heatnet), a multi-million euro fund promoting carbon reduction through district-heating in Europe's north-west, by a further €4.5 million from the Project Ireland 2040 Climate Action Fund and through direct funding from SDCC.

The network will use excess heat from a customisation to Amazon Web Services' (AWS) recently completed data centre to provide low carbon heat to public sector, residential and

commercial customers. AWS will provide recycled heat free of charge to the scheme as part of its broader sustainability activities, and its continued assistance to Ireland in meeting its EU 2030 national heating and carbon-reduction targets.

By 2024, the heat will also be supplied to nearby developments recently approved with planning permission, including affordable housing units, residential properties and student accommodation.



Tallaght District Heating Network



Michelle Nolan, Foreman of Works



Angela Donegan, General Operative

**The Council has plans to increase gender representation in those going for election in 2024 and for employment in typically male-dominated roles.**

Under-representation of women occurs across many professions and is not just a local or national issue in political life. According to the UN, women are under-represented in local government globally with only 36% of local elected members being female. In Ireland, the national figure is 23% so the country is well below the global average. South Dublin County Council itself is above the national and global average with approximately 39% of current elected members being women.

Efforts are being made by the Council to raise the number of women going for the local election in 2024. A 'Women in Politics' campaign is soon to launch across the Council's social media channels

whilst research into gender representation in the 2019 local elections is also being carried out. But it is not just in the Council chamber that increased gender diversity is taking place. In the workplace, changes are either at an advanced stage or being pioneered by women in fields typically dominated by men.

Due to the volume of services provided by South Dublin County Council, staff can work across several departments and on numerous projects or areas. While the Council is well represented in office-based roles in terms of gender equality, around 53% of middle management roles are currently held by women, for example, more can be done elsewhere to encourage applicants and career progression for women in

# A Focus on Gender Representation in the Council

traditionally male-dominated roles.

To highlight some of the women leading the way in the Council around changing perceptions of what women can do, we spoke to Maria Delaney a craft gardener at Grange Castle depot, Michelle Nolan, a Foreman of Works, and Angela Donegan, a general operative (GO) in our drainage section.

Maria decided on a career change ten years ago and took a course with the Botanic Garden that led to joining the Council as a craft gardener in 2019. She is often approached by women asking how she started in the role and feels there is a real appetite for this type of work. Maria feels that working outdoors with the Council, doing physical work that is in tune with nature, where she can see the benefits to the public and feels like she is contributing is the best thing she's ever done work-wise. She says her experiences have

been really good with her work colleagues and with the public with the only attitude change needed being at job interview stage by companies who feel outdoor work is more suited to men.

Michelle started in the Council in 1996 as a craft gardener in Tymon Park and became the Council's first female Foreman of Works ten years ago. She is currently studying Environmental Management with Sligo IT and is responsible for all the parks, pocket parks, roundabouts, grass cutting, bulb planting and the objectives of the Pollinator Programme which she strongly believes. She loves her job and thinks more women should be encouraged to see it as an option especially if they love nature and the environment.

Angela transferred into drainage from being a GO in Tymon Park and found the first year hard with the change to the type of work she was doing and with being in a new environment. She thinks a sense of humour and hard work is essential and thinks she may be the only woman working in drainage for a local authority in Ireland. She cites practical changes that can be made to attract more women into these roles, such as around equipment used, something Maria also agrees with. Angela has created a photo album of herself doing work in rivers and drains for her granddaughters to know any job they would like to do is open to them.

While Maria, Michelle and Angela are outliers in positions typically dominated by males in the Council and societally, by highlighting their stories we would hope to attract more female candidates to those roles when they are advertised. Increasing diversity across all roles and sections of the Council is important so as to enable us to better reflect the County we serve and improve the work we do.



Angela Donegan

# June Statistics Report Highlights



## Corporate Performance and Change Management

Number of Customer Care queries received	8,081
Number of Customer Care queries closed within deadline	7,304
Web pages opened on Council websites	228,828
Social media reach	1,330,972
Social media engagement	47,316



## Economic, Enterprise and Tourism Development

LEO - Number of mentoring sessions	61
Grange Castle jobs sustained	5,328
Library items borrowed	32,236
Library visitors online	2,408



## Environment, Water and Climate Change

Trees pruned	310
Kilometers of road swept monthly	890
Derelict site/dangerous buildings inspections	31
Litter - Fines Issued	61
Tonnes of waste collected - litter and illegal dumping	534
Tonnes of waste collected from street bins	46



## Housing, Social and Community Development

Total Housing Stock	9,688
Total housing needs assessed	6,740
Housing maintenance requests received	1,190
Allocations - New Tenancies	34
Number of PRTB inspections	269
Number of actions taken in response to anti-social reports	510
Electrical inspections completed	122

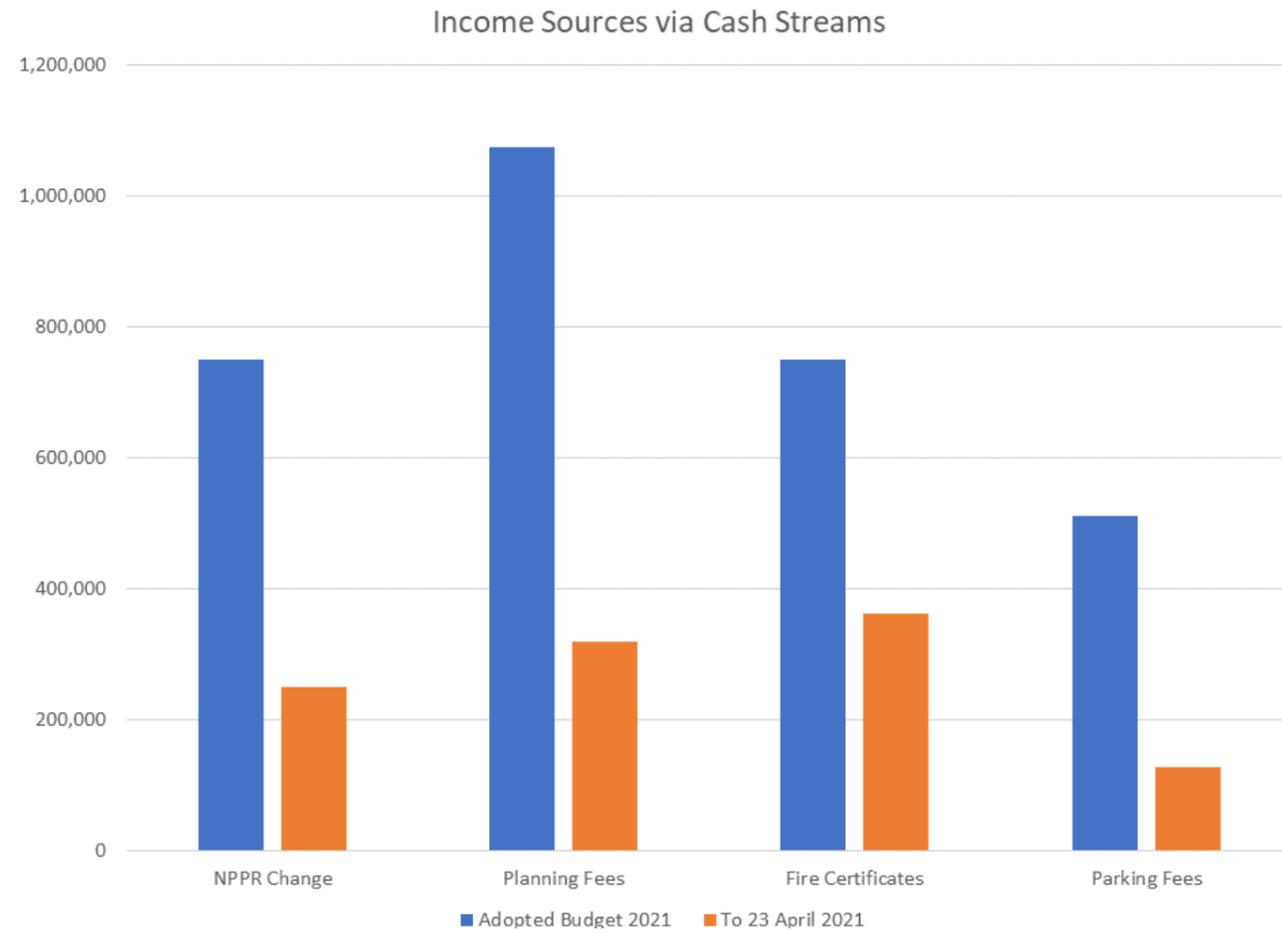


## Land Use, Planning and Transportation

Planning applications received - new housing units	131
Area of road repaired in m2	22,631
Planning enforcements initiated	18
Number of public lights in charge	30,264
Number of traffic lights repaired within 24 hours	70

You can view all statistics under the Statistics Report in the Manager's Report headed item of the monthly Council meeting.

# Finance Report



You can view the full Finance Report under the Manager's Report headed item of the monthly Council meeting agenda.

# Images of the Month



Community bus presentation in Tallaght



The Mayor delivering afternoon tea to John Brady

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Africa Day launch



Minister O'Brien visits Kilcarbery

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Website [www.sdcc.ie](http://www.sdcc.ie)