



Comhairle Contae  
Átha Cliath Theas  
South Dublin County Council

November 2021

# Chief Executive's Report



Dodder Greenway Bridge

# 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.

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# Land Use, Planning and Transportation

## Avonbeg Cycle Scheme

The Council's active travel team are progressing a new cycle scheme for Avonbeg Road. This is route seven of the Cycle South Dublin programme of works. It is a 1.5 kilometres route that links the Old Bawn Road to the Dodder Greenway. The scheme has been designed within the Council and involves the narrowing of the existing nine metres wide Avonbeg Road to six metres and the conversion of an existing two metre wide footpath to a four metre wide shared space. As part of this scheme an extensive landscaping plan has been proposed which will add a public realm benefit to Avonbeg Road. The scheme will:

- Develop the Council's cycle network,
- Traffic calm Avonbeg Road,
- Provide improved public realm,
- Provide an active travel route for local schools.

Consultation on the scheme ran until 2 November with a report being prepared on submissions received.



## Next Stage of Dodder Greenway

The Council is continuing to progress design work on the next stages of the Dodder Greenway and we are now working on the design that will connect Wellington Lane along the Firhouse Road, through the Blue Haven Junction and up Kilvere. We are shortly due to commence a non-statutory informal consultation on the emerging preferred design option to allow for feedback from interested parties.

## City Edge Project: Update on Public Consultation

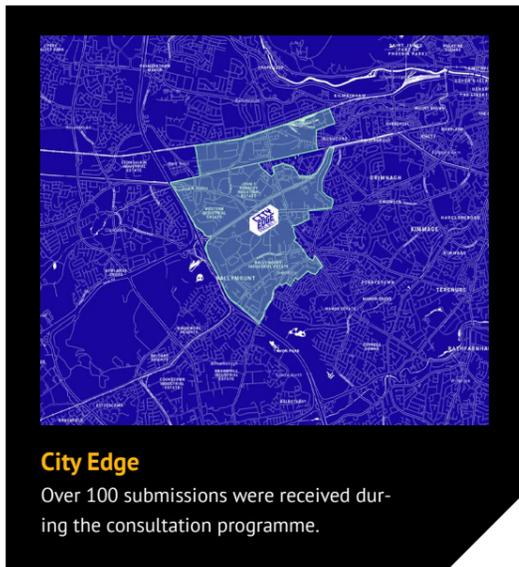
To help shape the preparation of the City Edge Planning Framework a non-statutory four-week public consultation programme was held from 9 September 2021 to 6 October 2021.

As part of this consultation, a variety of approaches were used to generate publicity and public interest. These included:

- Two virtual public presentation events with questions and answers,
- Two virtual International Conference events,
- Targeted invitations to events for groups and bodies (Public Participation Network, state

- agencies, landowners, etc.),
- Briefings to elected members in both South Dublin County Council and Dublin City Council,
- Website page with information hub,
- Newspaper advertisements.

Since the conference events, there has been significant media coverage across all platforms including online, print, radio and TV, including features on RTE television and radio news. The virtual events held in September had nearly 6,000 views and we received a total of 103 submissions during the consultation period. We are currently assessing these and a report on these will be considered by Council in December.



**City Edge**  
Over 100 submissions were received during the consultation programme.

## Tangible Threads Video

The video 'Clondalkin's Tangible Threads - Irish Crochet in the world of haute couture' produced by the Council for National Heritage Week 2021 has been awarded a County Award by the Heritage Council. The video highlights the involvement of the women in Clondalkin in the 1950s and 1960s who created and made crochet for the haute couture of the internationally renowned Irish fashion designer, Sybil Connolly. The film was funded under the County Heritage Plan and was made in partnership with the Irish Crochet Lace Revival group and the families of the key Clondalkin women involved.



'Clondalkin's Tangible Threads' heritage video won a County Award.

# Housing, Social and Community Development



## Planned Maintenance

A new dedicated workstream has been formed within the Council that will support enhanced delivery of planned and cyclical maintenance and the Energy Efficiency Retrofit programmes. This will be supported by additional recruitment and an apprenticeship programme in 2022, will allow us to engage with more contractors to counter materials and labour supply challenges that are impacting programme roll-outs. The works provided will include:

- Updating central heating systems to energy efficient heat pumps,
- Replacing external windows/doors and insulation work,
- Painting and communal area repairs to age friendly homes and multi-unit developments,
- Replacing smoke/carbon monoxide alarms, fire blankets and more under a rolling safety programme.

A detailed update on 2022 plans for these programmes will be provided at upcoming Council and Housing Strategic Policy Committee meetings.



## Marathon Kids

The Council is supporting over 3,300 students from 41 primary schools in the County to participate in the Marathon Kids programme during October and November. This initiative for fifth and sixth class students includes daily short runs, physical and mental health education, nutrition and exercise. It promotes physical activity among students and fights childhood obesity by promoting an active lifestyle.

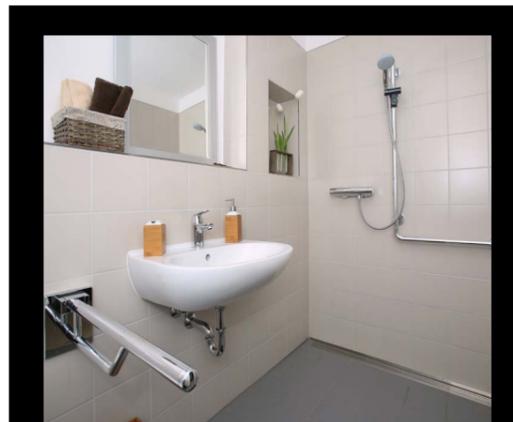
## New Age Friendly Housing Approved

Thirty-one new age friendly homes have been approved by the Council across three developments in Clondalkin, Tallaght and Ballyboden following the completion of Part 8 planning applications. These developments are part of the Council's stated objective to deliver age friendly housing across the County under the County Age Friendly Strategy, adopted by elected members in September 2020, and the subsequent Policy for Rightsizing and Allocation of Age Friendly Accommodation, approved by elected members in December 2020.

The approved developments comprise one and two-bedroom bungalows and apartments with

nine new homes at St. Ronan's Crescent, Clondalkin, ten new homes at Pearse Brothers Park, Ballyboden and twelve new homes at St. Aongus' Green, Tallaght. The developments at Pearse Brothers Park and St. Aongus' Green will also include community rooms to facilitate healthcare and other supports to existing and new local residents.

The need to provide appropriate and secure housing options to meet needs of older people is in the context of an ageing population and best practice of supporting older people living in their communities for longer. As these and other age friendly housing developments progress in the County, we will actively support rightsizing with support initiatives through our age friendly programme.



## Age-Friendly Housing

Thirty-one new age friendly homes have been approved by the Council.

## Social Inclusion Week

Preparations are being finalised for "Staying Connected", the Council's Social Inclusion Festival taking place from 15 -21 November. Our callout for ideas has seen proposals for over 50 online and live events including : film workshops for young people with Down Syndrome, Lá spraoi clainne ag Café Aon Scéal, events focused on diversity and active age and African and Spanish storytelling. We are working with several partner organisations to deliver this year's festival, including Jigsaw, South Dublin County Partnership, South Dublin Libraries and South Dublin LGBT+ to deliver a memorable festival.



The Social Inclusion Festival will take place in November.

# Economic, Enterprise and Tourism Development



## ReFrame Arts Strategy

Elected members at the October Council meeting approved the new ReFrame Arts Development Strategy 2022 - 2026, which provides the framework for the delivery of arts services to the citizens of South Dublin County. Over the past eighteen months, the arts sector has been adversely affected by the pandemic and the development of this strategy is timely as society reopens and people start to reengage with the sector.

The arts strategy will be delivered by the Council's Arts Office and focuses on three core pillars;

1. Equity of access and opportunity, enabling quality arts experiences to happen locally; giving a voice to young people and achieving inclusive participation,
2. A vibrant and resilient arts sector, where artists are supported and networks are put in place, and,
3. Strengthening our capacity to deliver the arts strategy, enhancing communication and monitoring the strategy's implementation.



## Event and Festival Grant Scheme

The easing of restrictions on indoor and outdoor organised events has opened up possibilities with the Council's Tourism Event and Festival Grant, where funding is provided to organisers holding a public event within South Dublin County. Two events funded recently are the WMAI/WUKF International Karate Gala on 30 October and the Fastlane half marathon and 10k in Clondalkin on 7 November.

## Red Line Book Festival

This year was the tenth anniversary of the Red Line Book Festival with the theme of this year's festival being the roaring twenties. Reading groups across the county took part in the run up to festival by reading books penned or set in that period and this culminated in a discussion which took place in the Civic Theatre with broadcaster Rick O'Shea, Emily Hourican and Selina Guinness, the discussion was live streamed to book clubs across the County.

In total 69 in-person and 15 online events took place across South Dublin County in venues including the Civic Theatre, Rua Red, Casement Aerodrome and all of the South Dublin Library network.

Highlights from the programme included:

- Pure Magic - author Colin Tóibin in conversation with Kevin Power,
- Between Two Hells, The Irish Civil War – author Diarmuid Ferriter in conversation with Richard Crowley,
- Gatsby Night – a night of jazz with Cotton Club Quartet and singer Truly Divine, and,
- Howdie Skelp – One of the worlds most renowned poets Paul Muldoon, based in Princeton University, closed the festival with an online reading from his new works projected onto the stage in the Civic Theatre.



### Red Line Book Festival

The Red Line Book Festival took place in October.

## Tallaght Stadium

Tallaght Stadium has returned to full capacity crowds in recent weeks with Shamrock Rovers and the FAI Womens National Team drawing large attendances. On 21 October, 4,107 spectators were in attendance, including President Michael D. Higgins, as the Womens National Team played Sweden in a World Cup qualifier game whilst over 7,000 supporters saw Shamrock Rovers bid to secure the SSE Airtricity League Premier Division with a win against Finn Harps on Friday 29 October. Large crowds are expected in November as the Womens National Team conclude their campaign with matches against Slovakia and Georgia.



The FAI Women's National Team will be in action in Tallaght Stadium in November.

# Corporate Performance and Change Management



## Cybersecurity Awareness

The European Cybersecurity Month (ECSM) is the European Union's annual campaign dedicated to promoting cybersecurity among EU citizens and organisations, and to providing up-to-date online security information through awareness-raising and sharing of good practices.

To raise staff awareness and knowledge in this area, the Council's Information Communication Technology section put together a programme of events to run over the month.

Information videos were publicised to Council staff whilst webinars were organised with external experts in the field. Colleagues from public sector bodies such as Tusla spoke on how they responded to the recent HSE cyber-security attack

We're a county of over 1 million opinions.

HOGAN STAND OR Hill 16

Make your voice heard when it matters most.

**Voter.ie**

- Check the Register
- Register to Vote
- Edit Your Details

### Register of Electors

Next year's Register of Electors is now being compiled. Citizens are being asked to see if they are registered to vote by checking the register at [www.voter.ie](http://www.voter.ie). While the closing date for receipt of completed forms has passed, citizens of the County can still make claims for corrections to the draft up to 25 November by contacting the Franchise Section at 014149100 or by emailing [registerofelectors@sdbublincoco](mailto:registerofelectors@sdbublincoco).

## NOAC Local Authority Performance Indicator Report

South Dublin County Council improved its performance across a range of indicators during 2020, despite Covid-19 challenges and while providing additional innovations and services during the pandemic.

The National Oversight and Audit Commission (NOAC) Local Authority Performance Indicator Report 2020 shows South Dublin County Council made advances last year, in particular in the areas of roads maintenance, social home reletting, citizen engagement and business support. The Council continued to deliver essential services throughout Covid, as the Performance Indicators Report 2020 shows.

- South Dublin County Council has the third-largest housing stock in the country,
- Over €2,800,000 was invested in works necessary to enable the reletting of homes with the time taken to re-let a home reducing by almost three weeks,
- The number of rented dwelling inspections carried out by South Dublin County Council in 2020 was the highest of any local authority at 2,987 inspections,
- In 2020, almost €1,400,000 was invested in strengthening 8.2km of local roads.

The NOAC Local Authority Performance Indicator Report is an annual report that monitors the performance of local authorities through several key indicators.



### Performance Indicator Report

The Council improved its performance across a range of indicators during 2020.

## €300K Have Your Say

The submissions phase of this year's €300k Have Your Say initiative in Tallaght Central has closed on 8 October with 223 projects submitted by members of the public. Those have been shortlisted and costed by senior management and the participatory budgeting steering group to be brought to the November Council meeting for approval before the public vote opens.

Once the voting stage has opened, the public will have two weeks to vote on their favourite projects with the results announced in December.



223 ideas were submitted for this year's €300k Have Your Say.



# Environment, Water Climate Change

## WeCount Project

South Dublin County Council have collaborated in the WeCount project with UCD, by funding air quality monitoring equipment at schools in the county, through the Climate Innovation Fund.

The WeCount project empowers citizens to measure road traffic and air pollution in their own neighbourhoods. WeCount is a European citizen engagement project with case studies in six cities: Dublin, Cardiff, Barcelona, Madrid, Leuven and Ljubljana. Citizens and community groups within each city are provided with low-cost sensors that count heavy vehicles, cars, bicycles, pedestrians and air pollution at the street level. Data collected will be used to provide evidence of the need of sustainable mobility policies around schools, such as the 30km/h speed limit around schools, the School Zone initiative, and more.

Visit <https://we-count.net/networks/dublin> to find out more.



## Autumn Leaves Removal

The Council's Public Realm section are once again providing a collection of leaves service during the winter months in conjunction with our nominated road sweeping contractor Oxigen. Residents can request removal of leaves by contacting [info@sdblincoco.ie](mailto:info@sdblincoco.ie) or by on 01-4149000 and the team will notify Oxigen to arrange removal of leaves as soon as possible and in a lot of cases on the same day!

## Draft Dublin Air Quality Plan

Ireland, as an European Union (EU) member state is obliged to implement EU Directive 2008/50/EC on ambient air quality and cleaner air for Europe. In 2019, there was an exceedance of the annual permissible limit value for Nitrogen Dioxide at one air quality monitoring station in Dublin. When this occurs, under legislation, the relevant Local Authorities are obliged to prepare an air quality plan to identify the root causes and to formulate measures to address that exceedance and submit the plan to the EU within two years of the exceedance.

The four Dublin local authorities have prepared a draft Air Quality Plan which is open for public con-

sultation until 15 November 2021.

Nitrogen dioxide is an air pollutant primarily associated with transport emissions, therefore, the purpose of this plan is to address reducing nitrogen dioxide emissions from transport in the Dublin region.

Citizens wishing to take part in the consultation can do so by visiting the Council's Consultation Portal at <https://consult.sdblincoco.ie>.



## Dublin Air Quality Plan

Consultation is open on the Draft Dublin Air Quality Plan.

## Be Winter Ready

Winter is upon us once more and the Council is prepared to respond to a variety of weather events if and when they occur. Our Winter Maintenance Plan for roads includes salt gritting of primary and secondary routes to aid in safe travel during icy conditions. Additionally, salt storage bins can be found in strategic local locations where conditions have been icy in previous years but where gritting is impractical. Drainage maintenance and the clearing of trash screens at rivers and streams to prevent local flooding will continue as usual. Visit the Be Winter Ready section on [www.sdcc.ie](http://www.sdcc.ie) for more.



The Council is urging citizens to Be Winter Ready.

# Dodder Greenway Bridge Opened



**The Minister for Transport and the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications, Eamon Ryan TD, joined the Council to open the Dodder Greenway Bridge.**

The Minister for Transport and the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications, Eamon Ryan TD, joined the Mayor of South Dublin County, Cllr Peter Kavanagh, Anne Graham, Chief Executive Officer of the National Transport Authority, Dave Hennessy Assistant Director Southern Regional Assembly and South Dublin County Council Chief Executive Daniel McLoughlin, to open the Dodder Greenway Bridge on

Friday 8 October.

The Dodder Greenway, being developed to be a Greenway of International renown it is expected to be on par with the best greenways in the world. Once complete, it is envisaged to be over 17km long, linking Sir Rogerson's Quay in the City Centre to the entrance of the Bohernabreena Reservoirs at Glenasmole, South Dublin County.

## Dodder Greenway

The opening of the bridges is a key milestone in the overall Dodder Greenway vision to link Dublin City Centre to the Dublin Mountains via Ballsbridge, Milltown, Rathfarnham, Firhouse and Tallaght. The South Dublin County section of the Greenway stretches from the Bohernabreena Reservoir in Tallaght to Orwell Park in Rathfarnham.

The Dodder Greenway represents a major new transport and recreational facility for Dublin, catering for both commuter and social cyclists. The route takes specific account of the rich ecology of the area and is a combination of off-road and on-road cycleways utilising existing facilities within the Dodder Valley as much as possible and connecting the linear parkland along the route.

Although developed as a combination of off-road and on-road, it utilises existing facilities with the Dodder Valley as much as possible to connect the linear parklands along the route.

As part of the bridges phase of the Dodder Greenway initiative, South Dublin County Council has built three new pedestrian and cycle bridges, 750m of new pathway and 2.6km of upgraded paths.

This phase of the project cost approximately €5.8m and is being delivered by South Dublin County Council with funding provided by the National Transport Authority (€4.3m) and the European Regional Development Fund's S&E Regional Programme (€1.5m).

Speaking at the launch, Minister for Transport Eamon Ryan TD said: "We celebrate the opening of the Dodder Bridges because they are vital pieces of a planned network of safe infrastructure. The Cycle South Dublin strategy is one of the most ambitious programmes for cycling in the country and will deliver a 260km network of cycle lanes connecting homes with the places people need to go on a daily basis."



**Opening of the Dodder Greenway Bridge**

# New Pavilion at Old Bawn



## South Dublin County Council is pioneering an innovative online booking system for the new pavilion at Dodder Valley Park, Old Bawn.

Getting exercise outdoors has never been more accessible to the South Dublin County community, thanks to ground-breaking technology and new state of the art pavilion changing and storage facilities for clubs playing at the newly refurbished Old Bawn pitches.

Old Bawn Pavilion and Pitches will now be available to book online through the South Dublin Coun-

ty Council's website [www.sdcc.ie/bookapavilion](http://www.sdcc.ie/bookapavilion), with booking software provided by Dublin-based sports facility management software, Sportskey. This new technology will make the booking process seamless, easy to use, and accessible to all who wish to play at Dodder Valley Park, Old Bawn.

The new system was launched on Monday 18 October 2021 by the Mayor of South Dublin County, Clr

## Innovative Booking System

Clubs will be able to book the pavilion at a fee of fifteen euro per hour, which will give them use of a pitch for free. Access to a referee's room and storage facilities will also be provided. Entry to the pavilion will be enabled through the online booking system, giving each club a unique secure code to enter upon arrival.

Access to the pavilion will operate on a first come, first serve basis, subject to registry and approval by South Dublin County Council.

Visit [www.sdcc.ie/bookapavilion](http://www.sdcc.ie/bookapavilion) to find out more.

Peter Kavanagh as he joined Council staff to officially open the new pavilion at Old Bawn, Dodder Valley Park. The pavilion was constructed by J. S Dooley Ltd. and consists of four changing rooms, a referee room and a storage room.

With the new facilities improved ease of access through the online booking system and convenient point of entry system, South Dublin County Council looks forward to making exercise available to everyone in the County.

Speaking at the launch of the pavilion, Mayor Kavanagh said,

"The provision of changing rooms and storage facilities at this location is in line with South Dublin County Council's aim to support and pro-

mote the health and wellbeing of the people of South Dublin County. The delivery of this new building will support the development of Dodder Valley and allow recreational facilities to progress further within this well-used park."



Old Bawn Pavilion

# Healthy Communities Programme



## South Dublin County Council is working with the Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programme to reduce health inequalities in the County.

South Dublin County Council and the Department of Health recently agreed to a Service Level Agreement under the Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programme to work together to reduce health inequalities by addressing the wider social determinants of health in communities experiencing high levels of deprivation.

This will be achieved by coordinat-

ing interventions at a local level in defined geographic areas through a Sláintecare development officer and implementation team under the oversight of the Local Community Development Committee. The target areas for the Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programme in South Dublin County are areas with significant need within Tallaght and Clondalkin.

The Council, on behalf of local

## Healthy Communities Programme

In 2021, Sláintecare Healthy Ireland in the Department of Health, working with the HSE, local authorities and other community agencies, launched the Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programme to provide increased health and wellbeing services in nineteen community areas across Ireland.

An evidenced based process identified local areas in which health and wellbeing risk factors are particularly concentrated and where particular initiatives will be delivered to help promote and improve the overall health and wellbeing of people in those communities.

communities, the South Dublin Local Community Development Committee and various local agencies and community organisations, proposed several projects in these areas under the Sláintecare Community Enhancement Fund.

The €500,000 funding available for the programme areas in South Dublin County is intended to provide interventions to address local social determinants of health and provide enhanced opportunities for sustainable active communities through outdoor recreational infrastructure as well as providing local resilience and healthcare initiatives to improve personal health and wellbeing.

Projects approved under the fund in South Dublin County include outdoor

Infrastructure provisions, such as calisthenics equipment in Balgaddy, a natural playspace for St. Cuthberts Park, an exercise route in MacUilliam, public realm upgrades at Neilstown, a teen space for Jobstown Park and more.

A community health fair in Rowlagh Community Centre, healthy families supports, a resilience programme for young females and the expansion of the period poverty initiative to community facilities in the programme areas will also be provided through the partnership between the Council and the Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programme.



A playspace is one project approved.



The Council's Teenspace Programme



This event will also recognize the exceptional innovation already achieved by staff this year through the Staff Innovation Awards.

**Scaling Up Innovation**

The Scaling Up Innovation event will seek to showcase successful innovations across the organisation to provide staff with the chance to learn from and mirror these successes in their own work. Projects in this area will include the Smart Mobility Hub (SMH), a collaborative project between South Dublin County Council, Fingal County Council and Dublin City Council. This project aims to reduce the reliance by staff on their own private car thereby enabling them to either walk or use public transport when travelling to work. Other projects included in this showcase include the development of a Staff Communications App, the Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems programme, our new Development Management Portal and the recently launched Pavilions and Pitch Booking System.

**Transformative Innovation**

Innovation Week will include a panel event that will explore what is required to anticipate changing needs and secure long-lasting transformation. The Transformative Innovation event will focus on three flagship projects, HeatNet, City Edge and the Tallaght Innovation Quarter.

The Council's HeatNet project has also been chosen by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform as an example of outstanding public sector innovation and will be highlighted as part of their National Innovation Week programme of events. The event, hosted by South Dublin County Council, is the first time that such a spotlight is being placed on the local authority sector during National Innovation Week.

**This year's public service wide Innovation Week will take place from 8 to 11 November and will be celebrated within the Council.**

Innovation Week runs across the public service between November 8 to 11 and South Dublin County Council has a full programme of events scheduled to promote, encourage and support innovation within the Council.

Events will take place both online and in-person and include spotlight sessions and panel events with the week finishing with the inaugural Staff Innovation Awards.

Innovation is a key driver behind the success of South Dublin County Council in delivering high quality, citizen-focused services. This year, events have been themed to align with the current Public Service Innovation Strategy, Making Innovation Real, which is intended to guide the efforts in fostering

and sustaining innovation across the public service.

Events throughout the week will focus on innovation across four distinct areas,

- Citizen-Centric,
- Promotion of Innovation Culture,
- Scaling Up Innovation,
- Transformative Innovation.

**Citizen-Centric Innovation**

Highlighting citizen focus initiatives will demonstrate how South Dublin County Council has sought to put citizens at the heart of the services we provide. The focus will include projects like the North Clondalkin Library, which has proven an invaluable community resource since opening in December 2020. Providing a

A Focus on  
**Innovation Week**

range of modern and diverse facilities, we will spotlight how the library service is evolving to reflect the changing landscape of a more and more digitised society. Other projects highlighted for their innovative approach will include Cycle South Dublin, the Teenspace Programme and ongoing work to meet the challenges of climate change.

**Promotion of Innovation Culture**

Putting innovation at the heart of service development and improvement are key in building a permanent culture of innovation, where staff are encouraged and supported to innovate.

To achieve this a launch of a reimagined Lean Six Sigma programme will take place. This programme will aim to boost our capacity to innovate by developing new skillsets and supports across the organisation.



City Edge will be highlighted

# November Statistics Report Highlights



## Corporate Performance and Change Management

Number of Customer Care queries received	6,789
Number of Customer Care queries closed within deadline	5,876
Web pages opened on Council websites	186,364
Social media reach	1,551,429
Social media engagement	48,593



## Economic, Enterprise and Tourism Development

LEO - Number of mentoring sessions	52
Grange Castle jobs sustained	5,328
Business support grants paid	23,572
Library visitors	40,242



## Environment, Water and Climate Change

Trees pruned	643
Kilometers of road swept monthly	970
Derelict site/dangerous buildings inspections	14
Litter - Fines Issued	21
Tonnes of waste collected - litter and illegal dumping	618
Tonnes of waste collected from street bins	40



## Housing, Social and Community Development

Total Housing Stock	9,687
Total housing needs assessed	6,984
Visitors to leisure centers	52,738
Allocations - New Tenancies	15
Number of sports programme participants	12,029
Number of actions taken in response to anti-social reports	361
Electrical inspections completed	525

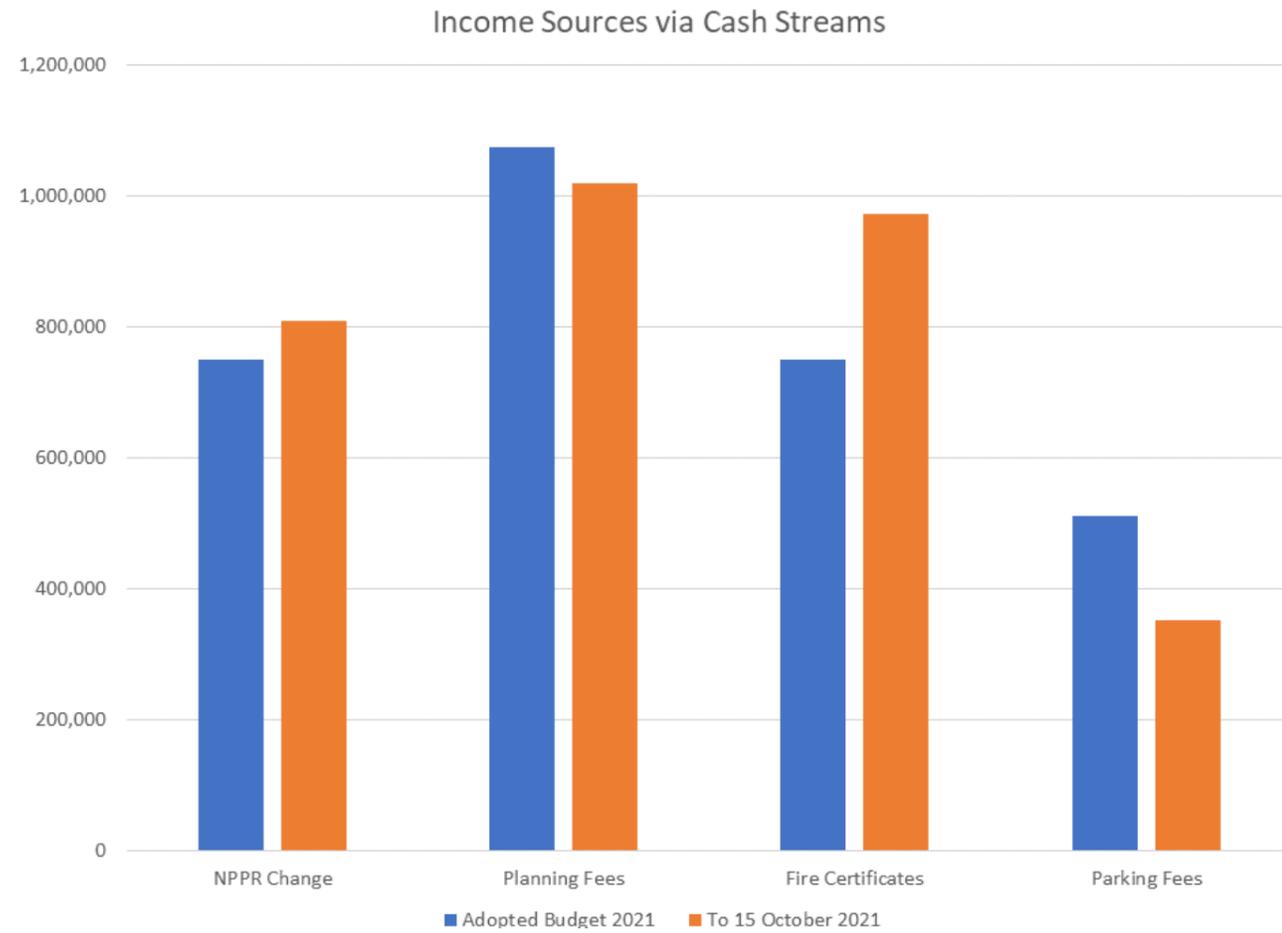


## Land Use, Planning and Transportation

Planning applications received - new housing units	24
Area of road repaired in m2	12,301
Planning enforcements initiated	23
Number of public lights in charge	30,387
Number of traffic lights repaired within 24 hours	113

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



Red Line Book Festival



Launch of Fire Safety Week



Aerial view of Tymon Park

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Safe Cycle Programme

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