

Visual Guide

Council Chambers



IRELAND'S **AUTISM** CHARITY

My visit to South Dublin County Council's Council Chambers

This guide will help me know what to expect when visiting South Dublin County Council's Chambers.

What is the Council Chambers?

The Council Chambers is a public meeting room in South Dublin County Council. This is where elected representatives called Councillors meet. SDCC has 40 **Councillors**.

Councillors meet in the Council Chambers to:

- Talk about local issues such as the environment, housing, playgrounds, and community services.
- Vote on motions, which means making decisions or agreements.
- Make decisions about the annual budget.



Councillors attending Council meeting

Where is it?

- The Council Chambers is in County Hall, Tallaght.
- County Hall is a public building.

Arriving at County Hall

When I arrive at County Hall:

- I go to the reception desk.
- A porter is at the desk and can help me if I need support.
- I can use the [**County Hall visual guide**](#) to prepare for my visit.



Entrance to County Hall



Reception desk in County Hall

Entering the Council Chambers

- I go through an automatic door beside the reception desk.
- The porter will open the door for me.

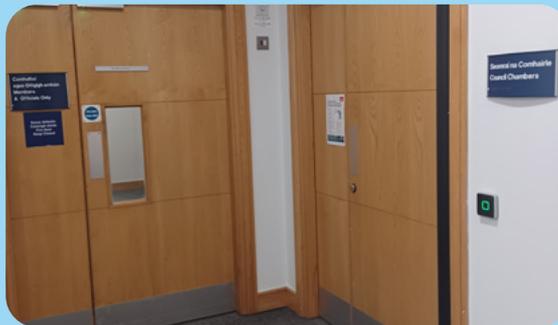
1



Door to Council Chambers area from reception

- I walk into a small hallway.
- I go through another door and arrive at a waiting room called the anteroom.

2



Door to anteroom from hallway

- The anteroom has lots of seats. I can sit here and wait.
- It may feel noisy and bright in here if there is a lot of people.

3



Council Chambers anteroom

- I go through a door from the anteroom into the Council Chambers.

4



Door into County Chambers from anteroom

Where can I sit?

- If I am visiting or attending a meeting, staff will show me where to sit.
- I may sit in one of the seats in this picture.
- If I am unsure, I can ask a staff member for help.
- I can remain seated for the whole meeting or leave if I need to.



Seating in County Chambers

Listening from the public gallery



If I want to listen but do not want to stay in the Council Chambers:

- I can go to the public gallery.
- The public gallery is a separate room with seats.
- It has glass screens so I will be able to see the people speaking.
- I will be able to hear the meeting.
- The public gallery may feel quieter than the Council Chambers.



Public Gallery

How do I get to the public gallery?

- The public gallery is on the first floor.
- I can use the stairs or the lift.
- A staff member will show me the way.



Door to Public Gallery

What happens during meetings or a talk?

During a meeting:

- Councillors and staff take turns speaking.
- Some staff members may talk about their work.
- A presentation may be shown on a large screen.
- Videos may be played and there may be sound.
- Most of the time, people are listening quietly.
- Members of the public do not speak during the meeting.
- Meetings may last a long time -usually around three hours.
I can leave at any time.

During a talk:

- Some staff members may talk about their work or what SDCC does.
- A presentation may be shown on a large screen.
- Videos may be played and there may be sound.
- If I am there with my school for a talk, I can ask questions.



A Council meeting in County Chambers

If I Feel Overwhelmed

If I feel overwhelmed, I can:

- Move around or stim.
- Go into the antechamber room.
- Leave the Council Chambers or go outside or go upstairs to the public gallery.
- Visit the library's Sensory Cubbie (more information is available on their [website](#)).
- I do not need to ask for permission to leave.

Sensory Environment

- The Council Chambers can feel loud and busy if there are a lot of people there.
- Voices may echo and microphones may be used.
- The lighting is bright.
- There may be video or presentations shown with sound.
- There may be sudden sounds, such as applause or voting.
- I can look at the SDCC County Hall sensory map for more information about what to expect during my visit.

Toilets

- There are toilets and a Changing Place outside the anteroom.



Changing Place in County Hall

Helpful Things to Know

- The building is wheelchair accessible.
- Staff and the porter are available to help if I need support.
- There is a café where I can get food or a drink.
- I can leave and re-enter the building if I need a break.

