

South Dublin County Council
Comhairle Contae Átha Cliath Theas

Annual Report 2012
Tuarascáil Bhliantúil 2012



A Living Place



A Connected Place



A Busy Place



A Place to Protect

Table of Contents

Section 1

Message from the Mayor
Message from the County Manager
Elected Members and Electoral Areas
Area Committees
Strategic Policy Committees
Corporate Policy Group and County Development Board
Council Membership of Committees and Statutory Bodies
Events 2012
Conferences 2012
Awards 2012

Section 2

Community Services
Libraries
Housing
Architectural Services
Environmental Services
Development, Economic and Transport Planning
Roads and Water Services

Section 3

Corporate Services
Human Resources
Law Department
Information Technology
Finance

Appendices

Finance Graphs
National Performance Indicators

Mayors Foreword



It was with great pride and pleasure that I took on the challenges of being the Mayor of South Dublin County, last year on the 29 June 2012. The cornerstone of my agenda for my year in office was to seek to protect those most vulnerable in our society. For my term of office, I focused on the proposed supported temporary accommodation project for the County and issues surrounding mental health and wellbeing. I have worked with the County Manager and her senior officials so that these priorities have been mainstreamed into the day to day activities of the Council.

From the day I took office, I have received so many wonderful invitations from residents, groups and organisations that play a vital role in communities throughout South Dublin County. In particular, I have enjoyed meeting the young people of the county through my visits to local schools, youth organisations and consulting with Comhairle Na nÓg. As a Council, we have continued to invest in youth programmes and facilities, funding arts and culture, sport and recreation, environmental awareness, literacy and learning for all in the community. We want to ensure that our young people will have every chance to achieve their full potential. By engaging with our children and young people, I have listened to their voices and recognised their valuable contribution to our communities.

As part of the Mayor's Initiative, I sought to raise awareness around the supports for people with a mental health illness but also around the services available to their families and peers. I very much welcome and support the establishment of interagency initiatives like the Mojo Project which aims to promote health and wellbeing to men over 25 who have been affected by the recession, unemployment or both. In 2013 the Jigsaw Project a youth mental health service will be available at locations in Tallaght and Clondalkin. It is important that we work together for the benefit of our whole community, supporting and enabling people to cope positively with the demands of modern life during this difficult economic period

As Mayor, I have requested the development of a Smart phone App which would operate as Mental Health Services App for the South Dublin County geographical area. The **MindMindR App**, through the latest smart phone technology will enable people to quickly gain access to information on a wide range of services available in their local area. The app will provide the first substantial integrated directory of mental health services that will be map based. Comhairle Na nÓg were consulted on the development of this App and I'm hopeful that with

their support it will become an invaluable tool to support those in our Community with mental health issues.

One of my own personal highlights will be the provision of South Dublin County Council's first supported temporary accommodation unit. This has been a priority of mine and my Alliance colleagues for some time now and I am overjoyed that we are delivering on our promise during my term as Mayor. This Council continues to support and sustain vibrant, participative, safe and inclusive communities and the provision of this temporary supported accommodation facility is a much needed and vital service that will cater for one of the most vulnerable sections of our society.

Enterprise and employment are vital components of any young emerging county. My fellow Councilors and the County Manager have worked closely with me to progress the innovative ideas that have been established through the 'Sustaining and Developing Business Action Plan' and the new Economic Strategy. This County has a great infrastructure network and excellent local workforce making South Dublin one of the best places in Ireland in which to do business and we are doing all we can to reduce the cost of business and promote South Dublin as a prime location to invest and visit.

2013 will be the year of The Gathering, an exciting celebration of Ireland. In conjunction with South Dublin Tourism, the Council hopes to attract many additional visitors to the County during the year. South Dublin will host an ambitious programme of sporting and cultural events making great use of the fantastic facilities that this county has to offer. As Mayor, I will do my utmost to actively promote these events as I believe that it is very important that we put South Dublin on the map as a genuine tourist destination in its own right with its own unique attractions.

Finally, I would like acknowledge the support I have received from the Deputy Mayor, Cllr Guss O'Connell, my fellow Councillors, the County Manager and her team. During 2012, South Dublin County Council continued to be recognised nationally and internationally as one of the of the most progressive and innovative local authorities in Ireland winning the Taoiseach's Public Service Excellence Award, e- Government Awards and the Chamber's Ireland Awards for the 'Ready2Read' project and Choice Based Letting Scheme. Tallaght as the main County Town received a Special Mention for the accessibility of its public facilities and services in the EU Access City Awards.

I have tried to carry out the role of Mayor with the upmost integrity and respect for the office and I look forward to continuing to work the Elected Members and Staff on the delivery of high quality public services for the all the citizens of South Dublin.

Mayor Cathal King

Message from the County Manager



The challenging economic conditions have impacted considerably on the Council's financial circumstances in recent years. Income sources have particularly suffered while at the same time demand has increased for many of the services provided by the Council. While these changes have increased demand on the Council's financial resources, significant savings have been delivered from innovation and efficiencies which have counterbalanced the reduced incomes and the increased pressure on services.

Overall reductions in the public service staff quotas have meant that South Dublin has had to alter its way of doing business, while continuing to reduce the cost of its services. However, we have succeeded in maintaining our high level of service delivery throughout 2012, despite the fact that an additional 103 staff members left the organisation during the year.

In South Dublin County, we have reflected deeply on quality of life and well-being issues and have set ourselves ambitious targets across all our services. Each of our strategies and policies are underpinned by our core mission: to work together to improve the quality of life socially, culturally, economically and environmentally for the people of South Dublin county.

Our approach is inclusive and commits us to supporting the citizens of South Dublin with fairness and dignity from the cradle through childhood to working age to retirement. We have the capability to deliver to the highest possible standards and are united in seeking the best outcomes for the people that we serve. It is a value which is at the heart of everything that we do.

In October this year, South Dublin received its designation as a WHO Age Friendly County. This followed an in-depth consultation process with older people and agencies and the development of the Age Friendly Strategy by the Age Friendly County Alliance. The Bealtaine Festival, the new exercise equipment in our Parks and the many projects and events that take place in our libraries across the county are all part of the strategy. The future plans include the establishment of an Older Person's Forum, a Business of Ageing Forum, and the development of Age Friendly Towns and businesses across South Dublin. The actions included in the Age Friendly County Strategy will ensure that South Dublin continues to grow as a safe, healthy and positive place to live and a great county in which to grow older.

Throughout 2012, the Council played a key enabling role in supporting a wide range of activities that promote Enterprise, Economic Growth and Employment. The Council is committed to the delivery of a host of projects which aim to benefit local businesses and communities. The marketing of South Dublin County as a great place to develop a business, combined with the significant level of capital investment in the arts, tourism, sports, recreation, community facilities and transport infrastructure has a very positive impact on employment supports and the economic recovery of our county.

Activities supporting enterprise include:

- The Business Development and Sustainability Project which was delivered in conjunction with South Dublin Chamber
- Support for enterprise agencies and business networking events
- Provision of enterprise infrastructure such as serviced sites and planning support
- Provision of arts and concert venues, sporting facilities and tourism products
- The Connect with Energy Initiative which promotes the growth of the green economy and aims to improve business competitiveness by advising businesses on how to reduce energy costs in the workplace.

2012 also saw the development of an Economic Strategy for the Council. This strategy is geared towards maintaining the county's position as an economic driver within the wider region and as a destination for indigenous business and foreign direct investment. It highlights the county's character areas where economic development can be nurtured and firmly positions the protection of existing jobs and the creation of new jobs as a key priority of the Council.

I am honoured that South Dublin County Council continued to be recognised at national level for its commitment to public service improvement. 'Fix Your Street' won the Taoiseach's Public Service Excellence Award and 3 e-Government Awards. These awards are a tribute to the co-operation of the Elected Members and Staff in their dedication to delivery of quality services and facilities and putting the citizen at the centre of our services.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the Mayor, Councillor Cathal King and his predecessor Councillor Cairíona Jones and each of the Members of the Council for their co-operation and support on so many issues during 2012. I would also like to thank the Members of the Corporate Policy Group for their co-operation and assistance.

I want to pay tribute to the staff and management of the organisation who have risen to every challenge before them in difficult circumstances to ensure that high quality public services continue to be delivered to the people and businesses of South Dublin County. I wish to acknowledge all of the work of the previous County Manager Joe Horan and all of the staff who retired during 2012, who have contributed so much to the development of this county.

Philomena Poole

County Manager

Section 1

Elected Members, their images and electoral areas Clondalkin

Name: Cllr. Gino Kenny
Party: People before Profit Alliance
62 Cherrywood Avenue
Clondalkin
Dublin 22
085 721 1574 or 414 9247
gkenny@sdublincoco.ie

Name: Cllr. Matthew McDonagh
Party: Sinn Fein
Clondalkin Civic Offices
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087 740 1854 or 414 9069
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Name: Cllr. Breda Bonner
Party: The Labour Party
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Clondalkin
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Name: Cllr. Therese Ridge
Party: Independent
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Clondalkin
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Name: Cllr. Tony Delaney
Party: Fine Gael
Clondalkin Civic Offices
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Name: Cllr. Trevor Gilligan
Party: Fianna Fail
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Lucan

Name: Cllr. Caitriona Jones
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Name: Cllr. Emer Higgins,
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80 Esker Lawns
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Name: Cllr. Guss O'Connell
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47 Palmerstown Green
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36 St. Andrew's Drive
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Tallaght Central

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Name: Cllr. Dermot Looney
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Name: Cllr. Eamonn Walsh
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Party: The Labour Party
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Name: Cllr. Pamela Kearns
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Templeogue
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Name: Cllr. Maire Devine
Party: Sinn Fein
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Tallaght South

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Party: Fine Gael
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Name: Cllr. Cathal King
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Rathfarnham

Name: Cllr. AnneMarie Dermody,
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Name: Cllr. John Lahart
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Rathfarnham
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Name: Cllr. Paddy Cosgrave
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Area Committees

Councillor M. McDonagh was unanimously elected Chair of the Clondalkin Area Committee.

Councillor E. Tuffy was unanimously elected Chair of the Lucan Area Committee

Councillor D. Looney was unanimously elected Chair of the Tallaght Area Committee.

Councillor P. Cosgrave was unanimously elected Chair of the Rathfarnham Area Committee.

Strategic Policy Committees

Arts, Culture, Gaeilge, Education and Libraries

Council Members

Councillor Paddy Cosgrave Chairperson

Councillor Marie Corr

Councillor Marie Devine

Councillor Tony Delaney

Councillor Mick Duff

Councillor John Hannon

Councillor Caitriona Jones

Councillor Anne Marie Dermody

Councillor Eamonn Walsh

Councillor Guss O'Connell

Sectoral Members

Dympna Quinn, Community and Voluntary

67 Whitehall Road

Terenure

Dublin 12

Jim Fay, Trade Union

20 Glenview Drive,

Tallaght,

Dublin 24

John Conroy, Culture

2 Tamarisk Drive,

Kilnamanagh,

Dublin 24

Lyuba Moore

The Intercultural Centre, CPLN

12 Tower Road

Clondalkin

Dublin 22

Economic Development (Including Planning) SPC

Councillors

Councillor Pamela Kearns Chairperson
Councillor Colm Brophy
Councillor Emma Coburn
Councillor Marie Corr
Councillor Chris Bond
Councillor Maire Devine
Councillor Trevor Gilligan
Councillor Cathriona Jones
Councillor Cathal King
Councillor William Lavelle
Councillor Guss O' Connell
Councillor Eamon Tuffy

Sectoral

Neil Durkin, Development and Construction
1-3 Sandford Road,
Ranelagh,
Dublin 6

Garrett Robinson, Business and Commercial
SIAC Construction,
Monastery Road,
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Dublin 22

Jim Fay, Trade Union
20 Glenview Drive,
Tallaght,
Dublin 24

Sean Giblin, Environment and Construction
2 Finnstown,
Fairways,
Lucan,
Co. Dublin

Donnie Anderson, Farming and Agriculture
Castlekelly,
Glenasmole,
Tallaght,
Dublin 24

John Kearns, Community and Voluntary
Bolbrook Enterprise Centre,
Avonmore Road,
Tallaght,
Dublin 24

Environment SPC

Councillors

Councillor John Lahart **Chairperson**
Councillor Emma Coburn
Councillor Breeda Bonner
Councillor Maire Devine
Councillor John Hannon
Councillor William Lavelle
Councillor Chris Bond
Councillor Guss O' Connell
Councillor Eamon Tuffy
Councillor Eamonn Walsh

Sectoral

Pat Lee, Farming and Agriculture
St. Anne's,
Bohernabreena,
Co. Dublin

Sherri Brennan, Business and Commercial
Skips Trans,
Unit 518B Greenogue Business Park,
Rathcoole,
Co. Dublin

Connie Kiernan, Environmental and Conservation
187 Wheatfield Road,
Palmerston,
Dublin 20

Una Ruddock, Environmental and Conservation
6 Tullyhall Crescent,
Lucan, Co. Dublin

Mary Clare Wallace, Community and Voluntary
Killinarden Business Park,
Killinarden,
Tallaght,
Dublin 24

Housing and Social Development SPC

Councillors

Councillor Marie Corr **Chairperson**
Councillor Breeda Bonner
Councillor Mick Duff
Councillor Trevor Gilligan
Councillor Pamela Kearns
Councillor Gino Kenny
Councillor Cathal King
Councillor Brian Lawlor
Councillor Dermott Looney
Councillor Matthew McDonagh

Sectoral

Ben Healy, Environmental and Conservation
Glenbrook Park,
Rathfarnham,
Dublin 14

Tommy Gilson, Community and Voluntary
17 Bawnlea Avenue,
Jobstown,
Dublin 24

John Murphy, Farming and Agriculture
Highdown Hill,
Newcastle,
Co. Dublin

Betty Tyrell Collard, Trade Union
Room 417A,
Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment
23 Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

Sports, Recreation and Community Affairs (Including Parks) SPC

Councillors

Councillor Cathal King- **Chairperson**
Councillor Paddy Cosgrave
Councillor Tony Delaney
Councillor Mick Duff
Councillor Emer Higgins
Councillor Gino Kenny

Councillor Brian Lawlor
Councillor Dermott Looney
Councillor Matthew Mc Donagh
Councillor Therese Ridge

Sectoral

Carmel McCartney, Community and Voluntary
6 Muckcross Green,
Perrystown,
Dublin 12

Sean Reid, Community and Voluntary
Community Centre,
Main Street,
Rathcoole,
Co. Dublin

Cecil Johnson, Disadvantage and Social Inclusion
Killinarden Community Council,
Killinarden Business Park,
Tallaght,
Dublin 24,

James Coughlan, Business and Commercial
Astropark,
Greenhill's Road,
Dublin 24.

Transportation

Councillors

Councillor Colm Brophy- **Chairperson**
Councillor Emma Coburn
Councillor Paddy Cosgrave
Councillor Cathriona Jones
Councillor Anne- Marie Dermody
Councillor John Lahart
Councillor Emer Higgins
Councillor William Lavelle
Councillor Therese Ridge
Councillor Eamon Tuffy

Sectoral

Matt Moran, Business and Commercial
IBEC
Confederation House,
Dublin 2

Tom Newton,
7 Meadow View Grove,
Hillcrest,
Lucan,
Co. Dublin

Community and Voluntary

Kevin Farrell,
6 Tullyhall Crescent,
Lucan,
Co. Dublin

Environmental and Conservation

Betty Tyrell Collard, Trade Union
Room 417A,
Dept. of Enterprise, Trade and Employment,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

Nuala Maher,
47 Garville Avenue
Rathgar,
Dublin 6

Business and Commercial

South Dublin County Joint Policing Committee

Name of Member	Organisation of which member	Title
Councillor Guss O' Connell (Chair)	South Dublin County Council	Councillor
Mayor Cllr. Cathal King replaced Cllr. Catriona Jones	South Dublin County Council	Councillor
Councillor Paddy Cosgrave	South Dublin County Council	Councillor
Councillor Máire Devine	South Dublin County Council	Councillor
Councillor Gino Kenny	South Dublin County Council	Councillor
Councillor Matthew Mc Donagh	South Dublin County Council	Councillor
Councillor Pamela Kearns	South Dublin County Council	Councillor
Councillor William Lavelle	South Dublin County Council	Councillor
Councillor Brian Lawlor	South Dublin County Council	Councillor
Councillor Colm Brophy	South Dublin County Council	Councillor
Councillor Emma Coburn	South Dublin County Council	Councillor
Councillor John Lahart	South Dublin County Council	Councillor
Councillor Eamonn Walsh	South Dublin County Council	Councillor
Councillor John Hannon	South Dublin County Council	Councillor
Councillor Breda Bonner	South Dublin County Council	Councillor
Derek Keating T.D.	Oireachtas	T.D.
Robert Dowds T.D.	Oireachtas	T.D.
Alex White T.D.	Oireachtas	T.D.
Sean Crowe T.D.	Oireachtas	T.D.
Eamon Maloney T.D.	Oireachtas	T.D.
Chief Superintendent Brendan Mangan replaced Chief Superintendent John Manley	Garda Síochaná	Chief Superintendent
Chief Superintendent Declan Coburn	Garda Síochaná	Chief Superintendent
County Manager – Philomena Poole replaced Joe Horan	South Dublin County Council	County Manager
Billy Coman SDCC	South Dublin County Council	Director of Service
Jim Lawlor	Community Forum	
Michael Noonan replaced Tom Aspil	Community Forum	
Michelle Kearns	Community Platform	

Members of South Dublin County Development Board

Alan Breathnach: ACE

Anna Lee: Dodder Valley Partnership

Billy Coman: South Dublin County Council

Brendan Manga: An Garda Siochana

Christy McDonnell: Community Platform

Cllr Pamela Kearns: SPC Chair

Cllr Cathal King (Mayor) replaced Cllr. Catriona Jones (Mayor)

Cllr Marie Corr: SPC Chair

Cllr Paddy Cosgrove: SPC Chair

Cllr Therese Ridge: SPC Chair

Fionnuala Anderson: FÁS

Willie Sheils replaced Gail McGibbon: South Dublin Tourism

George Kiely: Enterprise Ireland

Julie Cruickshank: Health Service Executive (HSE)

Justin Byrne: Environmental Pillar

Kieran O'Sullivan: County Dublin VEC

Loman O'Byrne: South Dublin Enterprise Board

Maria Donohoe: Children Services Committee

Peter Byrne: South Dublin Chamber

Philomena Poole replaced Joe Horan: County Manager

Shane O'Curry: Community Platform

Tom Rowan replaced Pat Ryan: Department of Social Protection

Jean Courtney: County Childcare Committee

Events attended in 2012

January 2012

- 14 Bini Community New Year Festival
- 23 Dublin Tourism Authority
- 25 Social Credits Scheme Photo-call
- 26 Chinese New Year – in Tallaght
- 26 Chinese New Year – in Rathfarnham
- 30 Centenary Year Celebrations, Peamount Healthcare

February 2012

- 03 National Cup 2012 Games Basketball Arena.
- 03 Holy Rosary School Mass celebrating 25 years (Ballycragh).
- 07 Irish Farm Expo Convention – Citywest Hotel
- 11 LAMA Awards – Crowne Plaza Hotel
- 15 Listen to Noise Toolkit – Knockmitten, Clondalkin
- 15 ITT Dublin Radio in aid of Cystic Fibrosis – ITT
- 16 Irish Planning Institute Awards – Customs House
- 16 Tidy Towns Meeting – Tallaght Stadium
- 18 Noise sounds Music Festival – Aras Chronan
- 22 South Dublin County Tourism Meeting – Red Cow Hotel
- 23 South Dublin County Disability Advisory/Consultative Panel Meeting
- 27 Engineers Week – Rua Red Arts
- 29 Age Friendly County – Tallaght Stadium

March 2012

- 01 Mayor held Book Reading – Holy Rosary School
- 02 Book Reading Week for children – Holy Rosary School
- 03 Land Time Bank – Adamstown Community
- 03 Karate Club Awards – Roadstone Club
- 05 Seachtain Na Gaeilge event – County Library
- 05 Tree Week – Planting a Tree in Lucan
- 06 Dodder CFrams – Council Chamber
- 07 CabApp (new system for getting a Taxi at the Airport) Radisson
- 07 Annual Awards in Citywise – Jobstown
- 08 Tree Planting – Corkagh Park
- 08 Seachtain Na Gaeilge – Tallaght Stadium
- 09 Late Night League Football – Basketball Arena
- 12 Start the R.I.T.H. Race – Lucan
- 14 Irish I.T. – Council Chamber
- 17 Lucan Festival – Lucan Village
- 17 St. Patricks Day Festival – Tallaght Stadium
- 19 South Dublin County Volunteer Trade Show – County Library
- 20 Photo-call for World Water Day – Concourse SDCC
- 21 Training for South Dublin Migrant Integration Forum in Irish Culture by Dr. Elaine Byrne – Rua Red, Arts Centre
- 22 Kenya Awareness Day – ITT
- 23 Sports Blitz – Clondalkin Leisure Centre
- 23 Noise Flicks – Rua Red Arts Centre

- 24 Beyond Eye Level – County Library
- 26 Students Art Exhibition by Greenhill’s College – County Library
- 27 Naming of New Lamb in Pet Farm Corkagh Park
- 28 Senior Citizens Easter Party – Lucan Village
- 28 Act up Festival – Tallaght Theatre (behind Cuckoos Nest)
- 29 Closing of Sports Blitz – Clondalkin Leisure Centre.

April 2012

- 03 Science Research Day – ITT
- 04 Easter Family Treasure Hunt – Griffeen Valley Lucan
- 04 Dodder Valley Active Citizenship – Cheeverstown House
- 05 Music Education Partnership Development Workshop – IT Conference Room.
- 14 Talent Competition – Dominic’s Community Centre
- 16 Civic Reception re Active Retirement – Citywest Hotel
- 17 Active Retirement Event – Citywest Hotel
- 17 ICA Celebrations of their 50th Birthday – Clondalkin Library
- 18 European Week against Racism Awards Ceremony – Council Chamber
- 19 South Dublin County Volunteer Trade Show
- 20 Noise Moves Dance Festival – Rua Red Arts Centre
- 22 Galway Cycle Race Team Members return – The Laurels Pub
- 24 St. Aidan’s National School Pupils – Council Chamber
- 24 Eco Week – Council Chamber
- 24 Launch book by Andrew Halpin – County Library
- 25 eGovernment Awards – Dublin Castle
- 25 Street Soccer Finals – An Post Grounds Kiltipper
- 25 Book Launch (Niki Philips) - County Library
- 26 Environmental and Art Projects of two areas – Brookfield and Fettercairn
- 27 Launch of two Intercultural Art Projects – Lucan East Educate Together
- 27 Art Exhibition – Archbishop Ryan’s School Lucan
- 27 Pop-Up Art Exhibition - The Square
- 28 Interfaith Purpose of Religion – Finnstown House

May 2012

- 01 Opening Ceremony of Bealtaine Festival – Tallaght Stadium
- 01 Ecole Valentin Twining City with Rathcoole – Council Chamber
- 03 Launch the D5P – Mansion House
- 08 Attend the visit of Apostolic Nuncio Archbishop Charles J. Brown – Dominic’s Community Centre
- 10 Second Level Social Inclusion Competitions – Council Chamber
- 16 Meeting Students from St. Aidans N.S. – Council Chamber
- 17 Tallaght Athletics Club – Greenhill’s
- 17 Photo-call for Gum Litter Campaign – The Square
- 18 Where Now What Next Equality for Women Programme – Dominic’s Community Centre
- 23 Wandering Methods Explorations of Slow Craft – Rathfarnham Castle
- 23 Photo-call for Fix Your Street – Concourse, County Hall
- 24 Official Opening of the “Zipway” through the Institute –ITT
- 24 Well Being Event “Free Spirit Festival” – Chamber Square
- 26 NIDOE – Nigerian Democracy Day – Seminar and Celebration – Clarion Hotel
- 30 Bursary Awards – Mayor’s Conference Room
- 30 Green Flag Ceremony – Cnoc Mhuire School Killinarden

- 30 Young Makers – Temple Bar
- 31 Closing Ceremony of Bealtaine Festival

June 2012

- 01 Green Flag Ceremony – Scoil Naomh Padraig
- 01 Presentation of Certificates – Dominic’s Community Centre
- 01 Present Certificates – Adult Education – Bryan S. Ryan
- 05 Ruaille Buaille Festival – Lucan
- 06 Art Exhibition – Adult Refugee Programme – Citywest Hotel
- 06 Green Flag Ceremony – Sacred Heart J.S. Killinarden
- 06 Italian National Day Reception – Lucan House
- 07 Environmental Work Progress – Big Picture
- 11 Connect with Energy – Big Picture
- 11 Present Fetac Certificates
- 12 Battle of the Decades – Scoil Mhuire Ballyboden
- 12 Photo-call with participants who qualified for Senior Games
- 12 European Bridge Championship – Citywest
- 13 Doodle Den Festival – County Library
- 14 SEI event with School Children
- 15 Green Flag Ceremony – St. Aidans Primary School
- 17 Start the Bike Week “Mature Pedal”
- 17 Community Games – Santry Stadium
- 18 Travellers Pride Week – County Hall
- 18 Launch Bike Week – County Library
- 19 Attend Liffey Sound – Lucan
- 20 Attend Reception for Clondalkin Youth Band – Clondalkin
- 21 Peamount Hospital 100 Years Celebrations
- 21 Scoil Mochua Clondalkin Sports Day
- 21 Taoiseach’s Awards – Dublin Castle
- 22 Green Flag Ceremony St. Marys NS Bancroft Ave
- 22 Green Flag Ceremony – St. Brigids JNS Brookfield
- 22 Tallaght Youth Bank Events – Tallaght Stadium
- 22 Night Park Cycle – Griffeen Park
- 23 Bini Community eDo Global event – Red Cow Hotel
- 24 Family Day “The Pedal in the Park” – Corkagh Park
- 24 Meena Bazaar Festival – Lucan
- 26 Interview re the Gathering – Mayor’s office
- 29 Annual Meeting
- 30 National Play Day – Corkagh Park
- 30 Knocklyon United Football Club – Clubhouse

July 2012

- 06 Exquisite Dance Group – Tallaght
- 06 Presentation of Certificates – Whitechurch Community
- 07 Space Savers photo opportunity – charity event
- 07 Marching Band Competition “Beat 24” Tallaght
- 08 Community Care Foundation Concert – Ballyroan Road
- 09 Wild Life Photo Exhibition – County Library
- 10 Launch Shamrock Bowl – Tallaght Stadium
- 11 CDI Family Day – Killinarden Community School

- 14 Shamrock Bowl Game
- 17 Tallaght Youthreach Exhibition of Photos
- 18 Photo-call Art Trax App. – Concourse, County Hall
- 19 Gum Litter Campaign – Round Tower Clondalkin
- 20 Ballet Show – Civic Theatre
- 25 Leargas European Voluteer Services Guide Book – Citywise
- 27 Allotment Open Day – Friarstown (Dominic’s event)
- 27 Closing of Summer Camp – Jobstown
- 27 Deerpark Youth Club

August 2012

- 18 Mela Day – Corkagh Park Caravan Car Park
- 22 Opening of Four Streams of Culture – Clondalkin
- 25 Family Day – Deerpark Square
- 30 Lucan Festival – Kenny’s Pub Lucan

September 2012

- 06 The Book Launch of The Dublin Fire Brigade in the Revolutionary Period. County Library
- 07 IAMA Awards – Victory Centre Firhouse
- 08 Powerlist Awards and Powerlist 2012 Launch – Red Cow Hotel
- 13 Meeting Representatives from Croatia Environmental Health – Council Chamber
- 15 The People of the Year Awards – Citywest Hotel
- 19 Launch the HSE and RAPID Health Fair – Tallaght Leisure Centre
- 21 Launch Knocklyon Walking and Cycling Route – Knocklyon
- 22 Shamrock Rovers v Drogheda United Football Game – Tallaght Stadium
- 22 Open an event in Kilnamanagh Family Recreation Centre
- 22 Event in Civic Theatre
- 22 Boxing Event in the Maldron Hotel
- 24 Fundraising event in Citywise
- 24 Tallaght Arts Event – Rua Red
- 25 Meet Students from Ronanstown House – Council Chamber
- 25 Opening of Deerpark Youth Club – Deerpark
- 26 Meeting the Martial Arts Group – Council Chamber
- 27 Planting the first Tree in Deansrath Community Garden
- 27 Literacy Audit for SDCC – Council Chamber
- 27 “Dial to Stop Drugs” event in Clondalkin Civic Offices
- 27 Tidy Towns Celebrations in Round Tower
- 28 International Property Forum 2012 – Radisson Stillorgan
- 28 Photo Call for Maths Trail – Sean Walsh Park
- 29 Present Awards in Victory Centre

October 2012

- 01 Launch Children’s Book Festival – County Library
- 02 Halloween Photo-call Dominic’s Community Centre
- 03 Launch Restorative Practice – CDI – St. Marks Community Centre

- 03 Meeting on "The Gathering" – Council Chamber
- 03 Launch Website YAM.ie – Wood Quay
- 04 National Housing Strategy for Disabled People Seminar – Council Chamber
- 04 Beautiful South Dublin Community Awards
- 05 Launch Tackle Litter Video
- 06 Event on Philippine Nurses Association of Ireland – Maldron Hotel
- 09 The Annual Volunteer Fair – ITT.
- 10 MOJO – Men's Mental Health
- 10 Meeting Youths from Dominic's Centre
- 11 Connect Education Conference –Dublin West City ITT
- 17 Opening Comenius Project in St. Marks SNS Springfield.
- 17 Full Year Prize Giving Ceremony – Old Bawn Community School
- 19 Another Comenius Project in St. Domains School Walkinstown
- 31 Halloween Parade – Clondalkin
- 31 Halloween Parade – Tallaght

November 2012

- 01 Unwrapped Colouring Competition – Prize Giving
- 05 Launch Social Inclusion Week
- 08 The Active Retired Tea Dance – Red Cow Inn
- 08 The Chambers Ireland Awards – Burlington Hotel
- 09 Present Prizes to Primary School Children
- 12 Celebration of Social Inclusion through Performing Arts
- 14 Comhairle Na nÓg AGM
- 15 National Directorate of Fire and Emergency Management and Presentation of Awards to members of the Fire Service
- 16 Celebrate the achievements of successful funding by Joan Bruton TD's department to Dominic's Community
- 17 Readers Day in Civic Theatre
- 17 The Diwali Festival of Lights 2012 (Live performance by Apache Indian)
- 19 "Click" photographic competition
- 20 Annual Exhibition of entries in the International Photography Competition.
- 22 St. Dominic's Community Respond Project
- 22 South Dublin Migrant Integration Forum – Fettercairn
- 23 Staff Retirement Dinner
- 23 The Tallaght Person of the year Awards
- 24 Dominic's Got Talent – Active Age.
- 24 Active Retirement Club's Annual Mass
- 25 "A Christmas Night" – St. Aengus Church
- 30 Art Exhibition of Jin Yong

December 2012

- 05 National Accessibility Week event - Present Certificates to Travel Training Graduates of Cheeverstown House – Council Chamber
- 05 Lighting of Christmas Tree Clondalkin
- 06 Attend "The Gathering Fund Submissions"
- 06 IACI Christmas Concert – Victory Centre
- 07 Tallaght Rehabilitation Project Awards Night – Kiltalown House.
- 08 Tea Dance
- 08 Presentation of Awards – County Library

08 Unwrapped "The Selfish Giant" and Christmas Tree Lighting
08 Christmas Truce – Kimmage Manor
13 St. Vincent de Paul's Christmas Dinner for Retired persons in Penny Black
13 Sports Awards Louis Fitzgerald Hotel
14 Present Scholarships – ITT
14 South Dublin Chamber Christmas Lunch
14 Baldonnell Aerodrome event.
14 Christmas Dinner – Old Bawn Community School
18 Ceremony in relation to Christmas Programme

Conferences attended by Councillors in 2012

Conference: Kerry Environment Conference
Venue: Meadowlands Hotel, Oakpark, Tralee Co. Kerry
Theme: Environmental Issues

Conference: Destination Creation
Venue: Royal Marine Hotel, Dun Laoghaire
Theme: Place Making Place Branding

Conference: Guide to Septic Systems
Venue: Kings Valley Hotel Galway
Theme: Septic Systems

Conference: LAMA Spring Conference
Venue: Tower Hotel, Waterford
Theme: The Role of Local Authorities in Enabling Economic Development and Local Government Reform

Conference: Nuclear Free Local Authorities All Ireland Forum Seminar
Venue: County Council Offices Louth
Theme: Nuclear developments across the Irish Sea and Sustainable Energy Communities in Ireland

Conference: Irish Planning Conference
Venue: Ormond Hotel Kilkenny
Theme: Planning

Conference: Training Seminar
Venue: Kings Valley Hotel, Merlin Park, Dublin Road Galway
Theme: Payment of Local Government Charges and Fines and Consequences

Conference: Association of County and City Councils
Venue: New Park Hotel Kilkenny
Theme: Various Topics

Conference: Training Seminar
Venue: Manor West Hotel, Tralee Co. Kerry
Theme: Reducing Irelands Dependence on Fossil Fuels

Conference: Building Regulations Control Conference
Venue: Westport Plaza Hotel, Westport, Co. Mayo
Theme: Building Regulations

Conference: Local Authority Housing
Venue: Kings Valley Hotel, Galway
Theme: Letting, Maintenance, the Provision of Estate Services

Conference: Mac Guill Summer School
Venue: Glenties Co. Donegal
Theme: Various Topics

Conference: Merriman Summer School
Venue: Lisdoonvarna, Co. Clare
Theme: Thriving at the Crossroads: Rural Ireland in a Globalised World

Conference: Kennedy Summer School
Venue: New Ross, Co Wexford
Theme: Irish American History and Politics

Conference: Revenue Collection Service
Venue: Manor West Hotel, Killarney Road, Tralee. Co. Kerry
Theme: Revenue

Conference: LAMA Autumn Conference
Venue: Mount Errigal Hotel, Letterkenny Co. Donegal
Theme: Reforming Local Democracy

Conference: Debt Settlement Collection Conference
Venue: Manor West Hotel, Killarney Road, Tralee. Co. Kerry
Theme: Debt Settlement

Conference: Education for Work Initiatives
Venue: Westport Plaza Hotel, Westport, Co. Mayo
Theme: Explanation of Programmes to get unemployed back to work

Conference: Legal Services Regulation Bill 2011
Venue: Kings Valley Hotel, Merlin Park, Dublin Road, Galway
Theme: Legal Services Regulations

Conference: Information, Technology and Communications Seminar
Venue: Great Northern Hotel, Bundoran, Co. Donegal
Theme: IT Issues

Conference: Promoting Justice through Local Government
Venue: Carlton Hotel, Tralee, Co, Kerry

Theme: Promoting Justice

Conference: Budget 2013

Venue: Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery Hotel, Cork

Theme: Budget 2013

Total spent on Conferences was **€16,230.31**

Awards and Achievements 2012

LAMA Awards 2012- Best Sporting Facility

Owned by South Dublin County Council, Tallaght Stadium is a purpose built 6,000 seat state of the art stadium located within easy access of public transport. With Shamrock Rovers as anchor tenant, it is a football venue, but is also a community facility. The combination of a first class football facility and the flexibility to use the Stadium for a wide range of community and sporting activities has proven to be a winning combination for the people of South Dublin County. Visit www.tallaghtstadium.ie

Irish Planning Institute Awards 2012

South Dublin County Council won the Innovative Planning Practices and Procedures Award at the Irish Planning Institute's National Planning Awards for the development of the Strategic Environmental Assessment Monitoring Scheme for the County Development Plan. The SEA Monitoring Scheme is the first GIS based web application in the country to use Development Management derived Indicators to both monitor the significant environmental impacts of Development Plan policies and to begin the process of introducing meaningful indicators to monitor spatial planning. The project seeks to capture critical data at the planning decision making stage that will ultimately lead to evidence-based policy analysis and review.

South Dublin County Council wins Taoiseach's Public Service Excellence Award

South Dublin County Council is delighted to announce that www.fixyourstreet.ie won an award at the Taoiseach's Public Service Excellence Awards Ceremony in Dublin Castle on the 21 June.

eGovernment Awards 2012

'Fix Your Street' scooped 3 e-Government awards winning the following categories:

- Open Source
- People's Choice
- Judges Special Merit

Chambers Ireland Awards 2012

South Dublin County Council won two awards at the prestigious Chambers Ireland 9th Annual Excellence in Local Government Awards for its ongoing efforts to promote the County as a location of choice for people to live, work, invest and visit. The Council won the awards for

Best Library Service

South Dublin County Library Service - 'Ready2Read' - Promoting Early Literacy Development

Outstanding Customer Service

South Dublin County Council – Choice Based Letting Scheme – Empowering the Customer

Access City Award 2013

On the 3 December, International Day of Disabled Persons, Tallaght as the main County Town was awarded a Special Mention for the accessibility of its public facilities and services. The Access City Award is an EU initiative in partnership with the European Disability Forum. Tallaght was chosen as one of seven finalists from an overall 99 applicant cities from across the European Union.

Section Two

Community Services Department

Community Services Department has responsibility for the County Development Board, the RAPID Programme, the Social Inclusion Unit, the Community Development Teams the Sports and Arts Offices and Tallaght Stadium. The Department also continues to administer its traditional role of promoting and assisting ongoing development of community activity at a local level throughout the County. It is also responsible for the day to day running of a number of community facilities in the County. The Department supports the Area Committees of the Council and two Strategic Policy Committees. These are the Sports, Recreation, Community and Parks; and Arts, Culture, An Gaeilge, Education and Libraries Committees. The main achievements of the Department during 2012 are set out under each Unit heading.

South Dublin County Development Board

South Dublin County Development Board met five times in 2012 and its subgroups met and reported to the Board on a variety of issues which included:

- Economic Development
- Employment and Unemployment
- Integration
- RAPID Programmes
- Children Services Committee Initiatives
- Interagency Traveller Actions

The Economic Development Working Group continued the Think Local Campaign and continues to work with Comhairle na nÓg to raise awareness among young people. A second public procurement seminar was held for businesses which included Tallaght Hospital, Peamount Care Centre and the National Procurement Service. The Working Group also raised awareness of the level of illegal sales of goods in the County and worked with the Joint Policing Committee in this regard.

South Dublin County Joint Policing Committee (JPC)

The JPC is a forum where the Local Authority and the senior Garda officers, Elected Members of the Council, Oireachtas members and community interests meet, consult, discuss and make recommendations on matters affecting community policing and community safety. The JPC has two working groups: Parks Subgroup and Intimidation Subgroup. Crime rates/statistics in the South Dublin County Administrative Area are circulated at each meeting.

The JPC also has three local policing fora (Clondalkin, North Clondalkin and West Tallaght) which have strong links to community safety groups throughout the County. Public meetings have been hosted in the three areas with large numbers of local residents attending.

RAPID Programme

The RAPID Programme continues in the North Clondalkin and West Tallaght areas. By 2012 the Programme had been running for over 10 years, and during that period significant infrastructural improvements have been made. Many other actions relating to improved integration and service delivery have also taken place. The programme is now concentrating on highlighting the particular needs of disadvantaged areas and ensuring maximum benefit for these communities from the resources that are available.

Community Development Team

- Six Community Employment and one Job Initiative Schemes are sponsored by South Dublin County Council
- Eight Deputation Meetings were serviced
- Children in 24 Primary Schools were provided with sandwiches, fruit, yogurt drink and milk through the School Meals Scheme.
- Management Assistance Grants were paid to 13 Community Centres
- 76 grant applications under the Community Grants Scheme were processed
- 30 Summer Projects availed of Summer Projects Funding. Approximately 6,000 Children attended Summer Projects in 2012
- More than 4,000 spectators and 400 participants attended the St. Patrick's Day Celebration which was held in Tallaght Stadium.

Community Facilities

Construction work began on Ballycragh Community Centre. Upgrade refurbishment/extension works were completed at Rowlagh Community Centre and the centre was re-opened. The new Palmerston Community Centre was also opened.

The Community Development Team provides advice, support and assistance to a wide range of groups and organisations and collaborated on;

- Festivals in Lucan and Clondalkin
- Family Days in Fettercairn, Dominic's and St Enda's Rathfarnham
- National Play Day
- Summer Projects
- Community Awards in conjunction with Beautiful South Dublin Awards
- Older Person initiatives and launch of South Dublin County as an Age Friendly County

Arts Office

- The Civic Theatre presents an annual programme of Drama, Contemporary Dance, Ballet, Children's Theatre and Musicals. Over 32,000 patrons attended the theatre in 2012.

- RUA RED South Dublin Arts Centre achieved over 109,000 in exhibition visits and workshop participation, supported the development of younger artists, alongside event-based exhibitions, the GLITCH festival and a number of artist residencies.
- Commissioned research into artistic practices of professional artists from immigrant, Traveller and new communities in Dublin.
- Production of *Tenderfoot*, with the Civic Theatre, a programme of playwriting and stagecraft for young people in South Dublin County. Over 40 young people participated in the programme in 2012.
- Launch of the new 'Art Trax' Smartphone application.
- Eight Individual Artist Bursary Awards were awarded in 2012, two awards under the *Annette Halpin Memorial Award for Young Musicians* and three *Young Artist Development Award*. Nineteen Arts Grants and contributions were made to amateur voluntary and community groups in the county.
- Media Makers initiated through funding from Young Ensembles Scheme Arts Council
- NOISE Flicks Film Festival -over 200 young people involved
- NOISEmoves Dance Festival -over 200 young people involved
- Creative Approaches for Learning professional development seminar for teachers
- Awarded funding for arts and disability exchange project for Irish Presidency of the EU YAM.ie launched
- Young Makers exhibition: partnership with West Cork Arts Centre, Temple Bar Cultural Trust, and Kilkenny Arts Office, touring exhibition of international young people's art
- UNWRAPPED has biggest year with over 400 in attendance, 200 participants and 11 artists involved
- Creative Campus partnership with Tallaght Community Arts signs on National College of Art and Design for 2013
- Partnership established with Dublin Dance Festival for NOISE moves 2013
- Provided funding application support to groups including Tallaght Youth Theatre funding awarded from Young Ensembles Scheme Arts Council.
- Ruaille Buaille Lucan Childrens Music Festival 2012 was enjoyed by 3,500 children.
- South Dublin Music Education Service delivered music tuition in piano, guitar, voice, and choir to 160 students in four schools. It also co-ordinated public performances for Ruaille Buaille, Love Live Music Day, UnWrapped Christmas Festival and Rain Falling Up as part of the European Year of Intergenerational Solidarity which took place in the National Convention Centre.
- Events supported by the Arts Office include Red Line Book Festival, Eco Week Photography Workshop in Corkagh Park, From Bray to Eternity Book Launch, Christmas Book Fair in the Sq., Culture Night 2012, Chinese New Year celebrations in Tallaght Library; Halloween event held in Chamber Square; the Free Spirit Festival and Celebration.
- Delivered Suburban Sounds, a music course for 22 young people aged 14 – 18 that runs for six months of the year, in partnership with Alternative Entertainments.
- The CONTACT Sessions, featuring bands playing live acoustic sessions and being interviewed was started in 2012. Artists recorded include local bands Just No, The Stoney Brokes, Carol Keogh, Martin Moran and Elton Mullally.
- CONTACT Studio recordings included Cat Dowlings debut album *The Believer* – the first single from which was awarded Single of the Fortnight in Hot Press and an album of traditional Irish and American folk songs from the VOICE Squad.

Social Inclusion

The Social Inclusion Unit continues to co-ordinate and support the Council's Social Inclusion Measures Sub-Group of the County Development Board, Intercultural Working Group and the South Dublin County Social Inclusion Network.

List of Achievements for Social Inclusion Unit 2012:

- Social Inclusion Week 2012 – Spotlight on Active Ageing and Intergenerational Solidarity
- Taking Steps to be a Literacy-Friendly Local Authority
- South Dublin County Traveller Culture Schools Project
- Celebration – Social Inclusion through the Performing Arts
- South Dublin Migrant Integration Forum Open Day in Fettercairn Community Centre, Tallaght
- Soccer Blitz for Primary Schools and Secondary Schools (European Week against Racism) and Competition to convey your own personal message against racism
- Awards Ceremony for European Week against Racism Competition
- 2nd Level Schools Social Inclusion Competition
- Golf Programme towards Integration
- Grow Your Own for the Unemployed in Sean Walsh Park, Tallaght
- Global Garden (Acting Local thinking Global) Corkagh Park, Clondalkin
- Launch of Bealtaine Festival
- Closing Ceremony for Bealtaine Festival in Tallaght Stadium including prize-giving ceremony for the winners in the Bealtaine Festival Competition "It is never too late to be what you might have been".
- Tea-Drinking Stories Workshop
- How to Cook on a Budget?
- Creative Writing Classes
- Bealtaine Festival Competition
- Green Fingers Workshop
- Internship Scheme
- Literacy Awareness Training
- Tea Dance
- Dance Workshops for the Active Retired
- South Dublin Age Friendly County Strategy Launch
- Intergenerational Concert Eight to Eighty!
- Celebration of Indian Culture
- Art Workshops for disabled people
- Horticultural Programme for Disabled People, Sean Walsh Park, Tallaght

Comhairle Na nÓg

2012 was a busy year for South Dublin Comhairle na nÓg. Ten members of South Dublin County Comhairle na nÓg represented the County at the Comhairle na nÓg National Showcase in November. This showcase gave us a chance to exhibit our work from 2012.

South Dublin Comhairle is represented on Comhairle na nÓg National Executive which is made up of one member from each Comhairle Countrywide. The Executive meets monthly.

During 2012, South Dublin Comhairle in partnership with the County Development Board continued our work on a Think Local Campaign, designing a bookmark which was given to Post Primary Schools, Libraries and Youth Clubs to highlight the importance of thinking local when shopping and socialising to ensure employment opportunities for young people in our County. Our members also represented South Dublin at a number of Conferences and Consultations throughout the year.

The Free Spirit Festival took place on May 24th in Chamber Square. This very successful event organised by Comhairle in partnership with South Dublin Libraries and the Arts Office was organised to promote a healthy body and mind. A number of organisations were in attendance on the day to promote their services.

This event allowed young people to see what is available to them when dealing with times of stress, especially around exam time. We asked young people to Breathe, Relax and Smile. Arm bands were handed out to all. A number of organisations working on bullying, sexuality, alcohol and drug use had information available at the event. Dr. Tony Bates, Headstrong and Mayor Caitriona Jones gave very inspirational talks on Mental Wellbeing at the event.

The AGM was held on 14 November in Tallaght Stadium. After Dylan Kennedy, Chair of Comhairle gave a presentation on what Comhairle have been working on in the last year, young people were invited to consult with Comhairle on Policing in South Dublin and Alcohol and drug use which will form the Workplan for 2013. Comhairle also plan on working on a project on cyber-bullying in 2013.

Sport and Recreation Office

Sport and Recreation continue to play an important part in community and personal development with many programmes and initiatives rolled out by South Dublin County Council. The Sports Office works in partnership with many clubs, community groups, associations and national governing bodies of sport to deliver a varied and comprehensive programme throughout the county.

Some examples of the programmes that have been completed this year:

- Late Night League Soccer Programme
- Easter Treasure Hunts in each of the regional parks
- European Week against Racism (Multi sports Blitz for Primary and Secondary schools – Mayors Cup Competition)
- South Dublin primary schools cross- country series
- Bealtaine Festival – Celebration of Older Adults in the County
- Garda Schools Basketball Tournament
- Golf Programme towards Integration
- Fettercairn Youth Horse Project – programme towards integration
- South Dublin Young Gladiators Programme
- Gladiators Summer Project (Summer Project for disabled children)
- National Play Day
- National Recreation Week
- PALs– Physical Activity Leaders Training for volunteer leaders in Active Retirement / older adult groups
- Summer Projects Programme for the month of July – Sports Activity Days
- National Bike Week
- Disability Awareness Programme

- Social Inclusion Week
- "Go For Life" South Dublin Senior Games
- Participation at National Senior Games – County Winners 2012
- "South Dublin Cup" Secondary schools rugby competition
- Football for All – Summer Camp
- Equine Programme for disabled people
- "National Club Festival" Football for All_- Disability soccer festival
- Boxercise Programme targeting youth at risk, teenagers and members of the travelling community.
- Equipment Library for older adult groups
- Chairperson / Member of the Local Authority Play Recreation Network
- Development of junior badminton club programme
- Boxercise / Health secondary school programme

South Dublin County Council in partnership with the Football Association of Ireland and Vocational Education Committee, facilitate a fulltime one year educational Fetac level 5 Sport and Recreation Course.

The Sports and Recreation Office also co-funds and provides support and direction to eight "in the community" development officers across the sporting disciplines of soccer, rugby and cricket. These development officers promote their respective sports across the county and encourage participation in providing and facilitating a varied range of programmes to include training, education, integration, women in sport and disability sport in conjunction with the Sports Office. These officers deliver coaching and training to both primary and secondary schools, community groups, and sports clubs right across the county. They assist to develop club structures and promote the ethos of fair play and sports inclusion among their various disciplines.

Each of the development officers host school holiday sports camps in the relevant discipline throughout the county

South Dublin County Sports Partnership (SDCSP)

2012 was a busy and successful year for South Dublin County Sports Partnership with increased participation in our walking programme Fitwalk, Code of Ethics and Buntús as well as increased interest in Link 2B Active and many of our events throughout the year.

January saw the launch of Operation Transformation on RTÉ and the interest in becoming healthy and active take off within the county. In partnership with Dun Laoghaire Rathdown Sports Partnership, one of many countrywide Operation Transformation walks took place in Marley Park. Over 1,200 people attended this hugely successful community walk. This also formed an excellent platform to launch our walking programmes for 2012. With Operation Transformation in mind SDCSP launched Fitwalk Programmes in various community centres throughout the county. The programme itself caters for all types of walkers both inexperienced and experienced and gave individuals the chance to participate in the programme and progress at a level that suits them. As the programme is indoor it also gives people the chance to walk no matter the weather.

In April, SDCSP held an information and networking event in Tallaght Stadium. Presentations on database and event management systems for clubs, Sudden Cardiac Death and the Tús Programme as well as the information stands set up by 20 different sports made the event very informative for all attendees.

Our now annual Ramble Aid "5K for a Fiver" event started in September. The events were held in Tymon, Griffeen Valley and Corkagh Parks over three Sundays in September. Through Ramble Aid we try to encourage all members of the community to become more active whether it is to run, walk, cycle or wheelchair 5k. The money raised from each event went towards the purchase of defibrillators for Brothers Pearse Athletic Club in Firhouse, Lucan Leisure Centre and Dublin Lions Basketball Club, based in Clondalkin.

South Dublin County Sports Partnership, South Dublin County Council and 3Roc Orienteering Club installed a new Orienteering Course in Griffeen Valley Park so schools, clubs and groups from around the area could maximize use of the park free of charge. The first phase of free training will take place in 2013.

Due to the ever increasing use of Social Media, South Dublin County Sports Partnership, Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown Sports Partnership, Fingal Sports Partnership, Dublin City Sports Network and Kildare Sports Partnership organised a Social Media Seminar in the Red Cow Moran Hotel in November. 120 club representatives from Dublin and Kildare attended the event with guest speaker Liam Horan giving information on various media platforms and encouraging clubs to use Social Media as a promotional and recruiting tool.

South Dublin County Sports Partnership, the Louis Fitzgerald Hotel and the Echo Newspaper held their annual Amateur Sports Awards in December. The awards recognise the outstanding achievements made by clubs and individuals through participation in various sports throughout the year. 2012 was an exceptionally strong year for the Sports Awards which saw Brendan Hyland winning "2012 Sports Star" and Peamount United's Senior Women's Team winning "2012 Team of the Year". The awards were attended by Paul Kimmage, journalist and ex pro cyclist and Billy Walsh, team manager of the Irish Boxing team at the London 2012 Olympics, as well as many clubs and groups from throughout the community.

The success of the Irish Sports Council's programmes implemented by SDCSP was evident throughout the year with continued demand for the Buntús programme in both pre-schools and primary schools. The Code of Ethics and Children's Officer courses also saw over 350 individuals trained from various clubs and organisations throughout the county. As well as training in Gymnastics for schools, Sports First Aid and Active Leadership Training, saw 2012 as a very exciting and busy year for South Dublin County Sports Partnership.

Tallaght Stadium

Tallaght Stadium had another very successful year with a wide range of events as listed below.

These events included high level sports fixtures, as well as schools sports competitions and a number of community events.

The playing surface was chosen once again as the Airtricity League Pitch of the Year.

Events 2012

Attendance

Engineers Week stadium tours and presentation	200
Seachtain na Gaeilge Ceile	100
Garda public order training x 6 weeks	1,000
World record penalty shoot out	800

Tidy Towns meeting	60
SDCC Schoolboy rugby blitz	200
South Dublin Rugby Cup Finals	200
St Patrick's Day Celebration	4,000
SDFL Schoolboys Finals	150
FAI Ground Maintenance Showcase	50
FAI Primary Schools All Ireland Finals	200
Cycling Ireland training programme	25
FAI Primary School National Finals	170
Sports Partnership Showcase	40
FAI U21 International	1,000
Shamrock Bowl	600
Leinster Junior Cup Final	1,000
Show Racism the Red Card Event	80
FAI Club Day	120
St Patrick's Athletic Europa League	4,000
Shamrock Rovers FC	81,000
Leinster Rugby match	5,500
EA Sports Cup Final	5,000
FAI Football for All Family Day	250
Orchestra performance	300

Total: 106,045

The Gathering

South Dublin County Tourism (SDCT) promotes South Dublin County as Ireland's premier sports, business and leisure destination. In 2012 Tallaght Stadium, Citywest Convention Centre, Victory Conference Centre and National Basketball Arena welcomed 500,000 tourists. The overall number of bed nights recorded was 38,000 from large scale events and conferences.

SDCT focused on the Gathering Dublin 2013 from July - December 2012. The Gathering Dublin will see nearly forty events take place in South Dublin County with expected international visitor numbers of 18,000. www.thegatheringdublin.com.

Capital Projects Funding

The following capital funding was provided by the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport for 2012:

Amount of Funding this Period	of Total Grant	Funding Initiative	Purpose
€113,386	€123,284	Local Authority Swimming Pool Programme	Energy upgrade and enhanced disabled access at Tallaght and Clondalkin swimming pools.
€332,500	€350,000	Sports Capital	Construction of Neilstown

€50,422	€50,422	Programme Sports Programme	Capital	Boxing Club Refurbishment of Jobstown Community Centre
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The following capital funding was provided by the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government for 2012:

Amount of Funding	Total Grant	Funding Initiative	Purpose
€319,682	€1.27m	Local Government Fund	Extension to Rowlagh Community Centre
€99,750	€105,000	Dormant Accounts Fund	Construction of Neilstown Boxing Club

South Dublin Library Services

South Dublin Libraries deliver a modern library service offering gateways to learning, literacy, the expanding digital world and to the written word in all its formats. Additional self service facilities provided in branch libraries during 2012 have freed library staff to work out in communities and across formal and informal learning networks. The old model of a library as a warehouse for books has been replaced with a democratic public space offering many opportunities for learning, recreation and access to the information needed to be a fully engaged citizen. In 2012 South Dublin Libraries were awarded the Chambers Ireland Best Library Service in recognition of its work in family literacy and literacy for pre school children.

Demand for library services continues to grow year on year

Demand for library services continued to grow significantly in 2012 despite the closure of Ballyroan Library (one of the busiest libraries in the network) for redevelopment. Over one and a half million visitors used libraries in 2012 and borrowed over a million items and attended more than three thousand cultural and education events. The demand for digital services and access to verifiable online information (particularly in the area of health information), has grown exponentially with over two hundred thousand computer sessions booked across the branch network in 2012.

Key Indicators 2012

Number of Libraries	7
Number of Mobile Libraries	4
Number of Visitors	1,651,407
Number of items borrowed	1,150,671
Number of items added to stock	84,000
Number of events/classes/exhibitions	3,697
Number of Computer Sessions	239,429
Web Hits	2.7 million
Wi Fi sessions	13,596

Supporting Traditional, Digital and Information Literacy

Literacy support in all formats is a core service for South Dublin Libraries (SDL), and in 2012 strong targeted literacy programmes based on traditional literacy, digital literacy and information literacy were implemented across the County. A pre literacy programme developed by library staff entitled Ready2Read was delivered to over 700 pre school children and parents in partnership with the County Childcare Committee. SDL won the Chamber's Ireland Best Library Service Award in 2012 with the project cited as an example of excellence in local government services.

An inability to engage with the digital world results in thousands of people across the County being excluded from full civic and social engagement. In response to this situation, classes and workshops in basic computer skills, searching the web, social media and eGovernment services were delivered across the Library network during 2012. TTRS (Touch,Type,Read,Spell) software designed for children and adults with reading difficulties was also made available in all branches this year. Demand for TTRS, which is delivered on a one to one basis by library staff, is now at an all time high. The positive benefits of this software are easily demonstrable as testimonials show.

Library Development Plan 2012-2016

The Library Development Plan 2012-2016 was adopted by the Elected Members in October 2012. The Plan outlines a roadmap for planned, strategic development of library services over the next five years and enables Libraries to continue their role as gateways to learning and the expanding digital world.

Partnering with Schools and Families

South Dublin Libraries partnered with pre schools, primary and post primary schools in 2012 to deliver a wide range of services and supports. Although school going children are considered as digital natives, experience shows that they struggle to find accurate verifiable information. Working with Adamstown Community College all 500 students were registered with their local library in Lucan, and training was provided to all teachers in information skills, online resources and using the library website www.southdublinlibraries.ie as a study support platform. Training was also delivered in using and downloading eBooks from the library website. Similar programmes are also ongoing in Holy Rosary Primary School in Ballycragh, Firhouse Community School, Pobalscoil Iosolde and a range of other schools. Pop Up libraries (lunch time visits to schools for library registration and book borrowing) have been developed for schools without a library of their own and this model of service delivery will be expanded in 2013.

Expanding Web Services

The library website front page was redesigned in 2012 in order to streamline navigation and to highlight book, literacy and children's services. With over 2.7 million hits in 2012 the website is a vital information tool for communities and offers 'always open' services including online health, reference, homework and heritage services. From the website people can now join the library, borrow eBooks, view events listings, renew and request books, listen to podcasts and a host of other services. In recognition of the **Decade of Commemoration 2012 to 2022** a range of photos, video, memorabilia and other items covering the revolutionary period have been added to the website including 600 new items on the County during 1916. All this material is freely available from SOURCE - the digital heritage section of www.southdublinlibraries.ie An Irish language version App for the library catalogue and website was also delivered in 2012.

Housing

Housing Construction Programme

The Multi-Annual Housing Construction Programme included the following in 2012:

- A Sheltered housing scheme at Valhalla, Clondalkin, comprising 10 units of accommodation is scheduled for completion in 2013. This scheme is funded through the Capital Assistance Scheme and will be managed by Clanmil Housing Association.
- An infill housing development of 9 housing units at Taylors Lane was completed and tenanted in May 2012.

Sales Scheme

During 2012, a total of 53 Tenant Purchasers completed the purchase of their homes through the 1995 and 2011 Tenant Purchase Schemes.

The 1995 Tenant Purchase Scheme expired in December 2012 and a total of 89 tenant purchase applications were made during the year 2012 under this Sales Scheme.

Applications received under the 2011 Fixed Term Tenant Purchase Scheme (applications accepted up to 31 December 2011) continued to be processed in 2012.

41 House Purchase Loan applications were made to SDCC, with seven mortgages advanced in 2012.

Rents Section

The Council currently operates a Differential Rental Scheme, where the rent is assessed at 10% of the weekly household income.

The rental income for South Dublin County Council for 2012 was €19,477,227.17.

The Council encourages any of our tenants who are experiencing difficulties in paying their rent to contact the Rents Section immediately. This enables the Council to assist our tenants in putting a payment plan in place to clear any outstanding arrears. There are over 9,000 accounts monitored by the Rents Section. Statements are sent to our tenants on a quarterly basis showing their payments and any balance outstanding. In 2012, a total of 106 Notice to Quits were served on tenants for non payment of their rent. Of these 106 Notices, seven tenants were evicted for non payment of rent in 2012.

Part V

The Council maintained negotiations with all relevant parties during 2012 in respect of all new residential development in the County. This was for the purposes of monitoring development

progress and to reach agreement for compliance with Part V of the Planning and Development Act 2000. During this period, a Part Five agreement was concluded in the case of one new development.

Social Housing Leasing Initiative

During 2012, the Council processed expressions of interest in leasing options from property owners for in excess of 100 properties of which 78 were made available for inspection for compliance with leasing standards.

A total of 40 privately owned properties were procured in 2012 under the terms of the Social Housing Leasing Initiative and the properties were allocated to persons on the social housing lists. This included 11 properties which were sourced by housing applicants under the ASH (Applicant Sourced Homes) leasing initiative.

Rental Accommodation Scheme

The Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS) continued to be implemented during 2012 with the completion of 226 transfers. At the end of 2012, in excess of 1,650 households have been transferred to the scheme since its inception in 2004.

Standards in Private Rented Accommodation

The inspection of private rented accommodation under the Housing (Standards for Rented Houses) Regulations 2008 (as amended) continued during 2012 when 880 properties were inspected. The inspection programme is managed by the RAS Unit in the Housing Department. Inspections are carried out by the Environmental Health Officers who also enforce the standards. A total of 5,200 properties have been inspected during the period between the 1 January 2006 and the 31 December 2012.

Dealing with Anti-Social Behaviour

The Anti Social team responded to 1,317 complaints in 2012 and the following actions were carried out:

House calls made	1,890
Interviews conducted	450
Warnings given	79
Eviction notice served	5
Clinics held (Attended by Community Garda and Allocations Support Officers)	312

Work continued on the elimination of anti-social black spots, where funding was available. The type of works undertaken included:

- Installation of CCTV
- Re-enforcement of walls
- Installation of railings
- Elimination of laneways
- Additional lighting within estates
- Stub wall construction
- Installation of anti-vandal mechanisms
- Re-instatement of areas
- Improvement of areas prone to dumping
- Landscape design and development

Estate Management

The Council's Estate Management Service continued its work in developing relationships with communities and assisting in the further development of those communities. They also attend the local Police Fora meetings.

The Estate Management Section continues to assist in the overall running and management of the Community Centre for Senior Citizens in Liscarne Estate, Clondalkin.

There are approximately 60 Resident Associations and Groups in Local Authority Estates throughout the County with whom the Estate Officers are in regular contact.

Estate Enhancement

The Estate Management Section continued its work of enhancing estates and community involvement by organizing and assisting the work of the community volunteers in relation to developing community gardens at various locations countywide. Examples can be seen at Balgaddy Community Garden, St. Marks Community Garden and Jobstown Community Garden.

Estate Events

The Estate Management Section has arranged various family fun day events, Halloween and Christmas Celebrations County wide. These events have fostered strong Community Development.

Inter-Agency Co-operation

The Councils Anti Social Service works closely with Childhood Development Initiative, local Partnerships, local Youth Services, St Vincent De Paul Society, Barnardos, Local Environmental Groups, Civil Defence, Safety for a Local Policing Fora, Probation Services, the HSE, An Garda Síochána, Dublin Bus, local development agencies, PAKT-YMCA, the F.A.I., and so on. A proactive and multi agency approach is taken in dealing with anti social behaviour in conjunction with our Social Work Section in Housing.

Junior Estate Management Programme

Estate Officers continued to work with Junior Estate Management Groups countywide and participated in urban art projects aimed at: reducing or eliminating graffiti, environmental projects, sports initiatives, clean-ups, training courses and so on.

Housing Projects

- 304 housing units were completed ready for allocation, 40 of these were completed under the energy efficiency programme.
- All external timber work including cladding, windows, doors and facia were painted in Taylors Court and all the communal areas in MacUilliam were also painted.
- All the timber framed windows, doors and facias were treated and painted in 48 houses in St. Finians Avenue and gutters were cleared and repaired.
- Work commenced on Phase III of the Council's Refurbishment Programme in the Greenfort and Shancastle Estates. This Phase will see 74 homes refurbished.
- Work commenced on the Council's Thermal Upgrade Programme on 22 apartments in Pearse Brothers Park and Palmer Park.

Adopt Best Practice in Estate Management

- 18,664 maintenance responses were carried out up to the end of December 2012
- Average cost per maintenance response was €291
- 15 Fire damaged houses were re-instated in 2012
- Windows and doors were replaced in 154 houses. The average replacement cost was €5,483

Traveller Accommodation Unit

- 16 Traveller families were accommodated in 2012.
- The Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee refocused its remit to advise on the Traveller Accommodation Programme and Management issues for Traveller accommodation. They established two sub-committees to assist in this role
- The Traveller Unit along with the Environmental Services Department continue to address the issues of horse ownership and illegal dumping.
- Meetings were held with residents and Traveller representatives during Traveller Pride week to encourage greater tenant participation.
- The Traveller Unit supported a number of summer projects hosted by the Traveller Support Groups and the Tallaght Youth Services.

The Housing Welfare (Social Work) Section

The Housing Welfare Section received 302 new referrals in 2012, in addition to 117 ongoing cases. 32% (97) of these referrals related to tenants who were requesting to be prioritised on the housing transfer list. 20% (60) were in relation to clients in rent arrears. 15% (45) related to tenants who required support. 14 % (44) were queries in relation to housing issues. 11%

(33) of the referrals related to applicants requesting priority on the Housing List. 6% (18) were in relation to child welfare issues that necessitated a referral to the HSE. 2% (5) of the referrals related to people in housing loan arrears.

The Rents Section made the highest number of referrals constituting 20% of the overall referrals. Referrals were received from other sections within the Housing Department such as: the Allocation Support Unit, Housing Allocations, the Traveller Accommodation Unit, RAS, and Loans and Maintenance. The HSE (including Children and Families Social Workers, Mental Health Social Workers and Public Health Nurses) made the largest number of external referrals, amounting to 13% of the overall number of referrals. External referrals also came from a wide range of agencies including: voluntary agencies, hospitals, GP's and disability services.

The team introduced a range of administrative changes in 2012 including: a new referral form outlining the criteria for the service, standardised letters and an assessment report template. A new way of dealing with recommendations for priority housing transfers was also developed through the establishment of a Priorities Committee in June, 2012. The Housing Welfare Section presented 35 cases to this committee in 2012 and 11 of these cases were awarded priority.

The Housing Welfare Section was involved in a range of inter-agency initiatives in 2012. These include: the Alternative Response Model, the MOJO Project (a programme to support men who are affected by the recession and/or unemployment), Jigsaw (youth mental health project) Steering Group, and the Restorative Justice Panel, Tallaght. It was also involved in several inter-agency groups relating to the Traveller community including; Frontline Inter-Agency Meetings, Operational Group Meetings, Local Accommodation Consultative Committee, Steering Group for Co-ordination of Services to Travellers and a Site Child Safety Initiative.

The Housing Welfare Section has continued to work in partnership with Focus Ireland, who provides a tenancy sustainment service to SDCC tenants. In addition to this, HAIL Housing established an outreach service in 2012 which provides support to SDCC tenants who require support around managing their mental health.

Homeless Services

- The Homeless Services Unit (HSU) established in 2010 continues to work specifically with applicants included or seeking inclusion on the Council's Homeless Register. The HSU offers a drop-in service for homeless assessment and emergency bed placement along with homeless allocations. A dedicated team of experienced staff were identified from within existing resources to provide this service.
- Saoirse Women's Refuge Tallaght continued to provide a full service in 2012 with capacity to accommodate 6 families.
- The 27 homes managed by Sonas and Sophia Housing Associations specifically for persons who are homeless continued to support the need in 2012 with additional supports in other accommodations being provided by Hail and Focus Ireland, following the reconfiguration of homeless services .

- 158 applicants were registered as homeless as at 31 October 2012, all of whom have been assessed by the Homeless Services Unit and placed into a range of short term temporary emergency accommodation (TEA) or supported temporary accommodation (STA).
- 34 homeless applicants were awarded overall priority up to 31 October 2012, all of whom have been housed either to Social Housing; Voluntary Housing; RAS Accommodation or Long-term Supported Accommodation with a voluntary housing body. During the same period, an additional 36 homeless applicants moved from emergency accommodation to private rented accommodation.
- The SLI (Support to Live Independently) Service is provided by Dublin Simon Community in partnership with the four Dublin Local Authorities. It provides visiting support to service users moving from homelessness to independent living within the community. The service continued to operate and expand in 2012.
- The Council first supported temporary accommodation (STA) unit is anticipated to be operating from May 2013.

Allocations Section

- The Council has continued to operate the Choice Based Letting Scheme (CBL) which gives applicants on the Housing List the option to be considered for certain vacant properties in their stated areas of preference.
- CBL was fully introduced in January 2012 as the Council's primary method of housing allocation. In 2012, the scheme was expanded to also include Council Leased Properties and Voluntary Housing properties available for letting which are now also being advertised on the Council's Choice Based Letting Website.
- South Dublin County Council received the Award in the 'Chamber Ireland: Excellence in Local Government Awards 2012 for Outstanding Customer Service' commending the 'Choice Based Letting Scheme – Empowering the Customer'.
- In 2012, there have been 11,161 expressions of interest made by eligible applicants with respect of 168 properties advertised under the CBL scheme. The home is allocated to the applicant who is highest on the waiting list of those who have expressed an interest, in accordance with the Council's Allocations Scheme.
- The Council commenced the full introduction of the Applicant Sourced Homes (ASH) programme in 2012. This scheme is an opportunity for housing applicants to source their own home from private property owners. If the property is suitable and the property owner agrees, the property will be leased by the Council for the purpose of satisfying the applicants accommodation needs. In 2012, eight homes were allocated through ASH.

The ASH programme is being rolled out on an incremental basis to persons on the social housing waiting lists in parallel with CBL.

South Dublin Children's Services Committee (SDCSC)

2012 was a year of renewal for SDCSC.

- ❖ The loss of staff due to retirements and organisational changes and HSE boundary realignments presented a number of challenges for SDCSC in 2012
- ❖ The Education subgroup was revived and was a co-organiser, with the Connect School project, of a very successful conference 'The future's not what it used to be.' The guest speaker was film maker and educationalist Lord David Puttnam.
- ❖ The interagency subgroup organised an equally successful conference 'It takes a village to raise a child' both of which crossed county boundaries in attracting audiences. The emphasis was on skills development facilitated by the holding of a number of practical workshops throughout the day.
- ❖ A presentation by Sean Redmond of the Irish Youth Justice Service was organised by the Data and Planning Subgroup. Mr. Redmond articulated the growing demand for evidence based practice, both by funders and those who seek to bring the effective services to young people.
- ❖ The Alternative Response Model (ARM) a project which is designed to facilitate a speedier response to family issues by a number of agencies began mainstreaming in the Tallaght area.
- ❖ Members of the Safe and Secure Subgroup worked with the SDCC RAPID Team and CDI in delivering the Community Safety Initiative.
- ❖ On the national stage the CSC engaged directly with the Department of Children and Youth Affairs (DCYA) through two main committees, the National Children's Strategy Implementation Group and the newly formed CSC Steering Group.

The Committee looks forward to 2013, a year which will see the establishment of the Child and Family Agency and the publication of the national Children's and Young People's Strategy.

Key Indicators

- 295 homes allocated to new tenants in 2012.
- 86 transfer requests granted.
- Total Voluntary Housing stock in the County at the end of 2012 was 1,144 units.
- 19,828 maintenance requests received with 94% completed within target time-frames.
- Housing Maintenance budget for 2012 was €9,912,500.
- The Rent Income for 2012 was €19,477,227.17, and the average weekly rent was €43.30.
- 1,183 live loans on our portfolio with collection of €5.89m.
- 173 Local Authority dwellings were adapted under the Disabled Persons Grants Scheme in 2012 and expenditure for above was €594,447.00.
- 165 Housing Adaptation Grants for People with a Disability were paid out at a total cost of €1,478,018.10 in 2012.
- 83 Mobility Aids Housing Grant Schemes were paid out at a total cost of €315,910.98 in 2012.

- 39 Housing Aid for Older People grants were paid out at a total cost of €160,189.58 in 2012.

Housing and Social Development SPC

During 2012, a number of reports and issues were discussed and considered:

- The development of the C.B.L scheme
- The Mortgage to Rent Scheme
- The Build to Lease Scheme
- Maintenance of Traveler Sites
- Presentation by Focus Ireland on their Homeless Strategy
- Proposal to establish a Priorities Committee to consider requests for priority housing or transfers under the Scheme of Letting Priorities
- Supreme Court Judgment on Section 62 of The Housing Act 1966
- MARP - Mortgage Arrears Resolution Process in 2012
- Area Based Pilot Project 2012 - 'Delivering Energy Efficiency Improvements to Low Income Housing'
- Signaled Changes to Housing 2013

Architectural Services

The Architectural Services Department (ASD) has been focusing on renewal and improvement of the Council's existing Assets. This directly affects the Council's strategic themes of a Living, Connected and Busy Place and a Place to Protect. ASD has been working in collaboration with other departments and in partnership with Communities to promote energy efficiency, mobility and heritage locally and countywide.

ASD Partnership Projects

The Village Initiatives was launched in 2012. The objective is to assist with developing the villages identified in the county as the accessible focus of walking and amenity networks for their adjoining communities and to increase their attractiveness and visitability. The Initiative includes auditing building and site usage, and preparation of a three year Tidy Towns Plan for each village. Extended community consultation and partnership with local groups is undertaken and supported by the Council providing design/building advice and acting as a link in cross- agency projects (for example Tús).

National Children's Hospital Proposal April/ May 2012

Tallaght Medical Quarter: Combined SDCC and Tallaght Hospital's proposal for a National Children's Hospital for Tallaght. In April and May- a highly regarded submission for a Medical Quarter consisting of a National Children's Hospital, and a future Women's Hospital located adjacent to the existing leading adult teaching Hospital was developed. This proposed a 120,000 sq. m. 10 storey development that had the advantages of "...publicly owned, serviced, buildable site adjacent to existing hospital and supports for all hospital users, also offering future expansion opportunities in a planned town centre environment....."

Although not ultimately selected as the optimum location for the National Children's Hospital this submission highlighted the wide range of amenities and support services that Tallaght has available within easy walking distances. The accessibility provided by the Public Transport Services, and the ability of the Council to provide a cross disciplinary team with proven expertise for the development of the County was also highlighted. A facility and skill set that is on hand for future development.

PROPOSED BUILDINGS



Connect with Energy Initiatives

The County Architect is SDCC's Energy Champion and 2012 saw the Department's involvement with the following projects:

LEAP (Leadership in Energy Action and Planning) programme



South Dublin County Council signed up to the Covenant of Mayors Protocol on the 11 June 2012 and hosted a week long 'Connect with Energy', event from the 11 June to the 15 June 2012. The Covenant of Mayor's Protocol sign up and 'Connect with Energy' event are the culmination of a year long involvement in the Intelligent Energy Europe (IEE) funded LEAP (Leadership in Energy Action and Planning) programme.

This is an initiative of the European Commission that brings together Mayors from across Europe, in a shared, voluntary commitment to reducing CO₂ emissions by a minimum target of 20% by 2020. For South Dublin County, this target is based on a reduction over countywide 2006 baseline levels. The covenant also requires members to draft and submit a Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP), prepare an evaluation report on a yearly basis and share and disseminate knowledge and best practice on energy within their areas of influence. It also requires the sharing of capacity building experiences at a local, regional and national level.

South Dublin County Council's Energy Management Action Plan

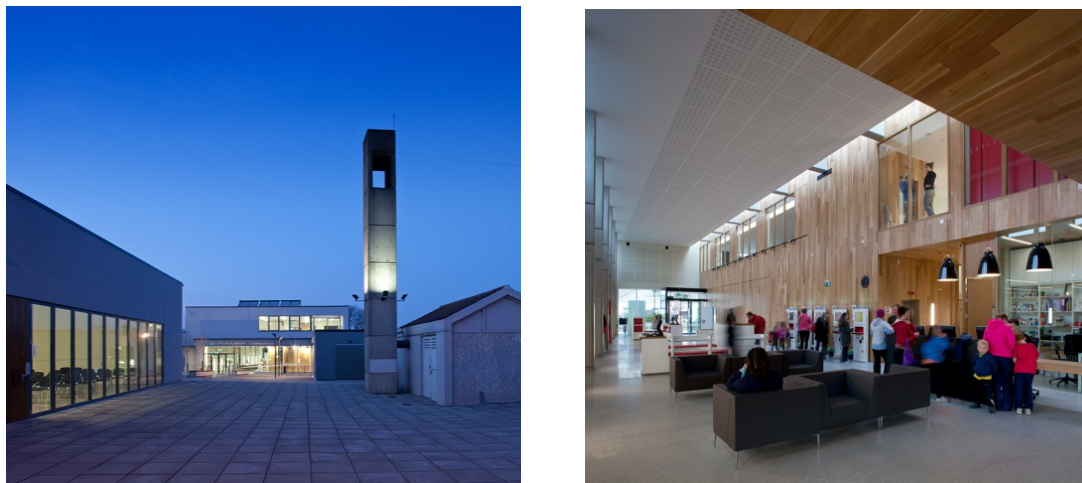
This puts forward an energy roadmap setting out how the County can take the lead in addressing EU and national energy targets to 2020. The aim is to prioritise energy use and efficiency across all Council functions. It is establishing an Energy Baseline of Council activities and identifying energy efficient measures and initiatives that will reduce Council energy use, cost and associated CO₂ emissions. The draft Action Plan is due to be launched in early 2013. This is a collaborative project with the Land Use Economic and Transport Planning Department's Energy related Projects in the community.

Energy related Projects in the community - Valhalla Sheltered Housing Project



This exciting development provides fully accessible living accommodation for up to 23 persons, close to the amenities and public transport of Clondalkin Village. Using sustainable materials and energy efficient technologies, work started on site in the 4th quarter of 2011 and will be completed in the first quarter of 2013.

Energy related Projects in the community- Ballyroan Library



The construction of the new A3 rated Ballyroan Library started in October 2011 and was completed in October 2012. The contract was completed on time and within budget. This is the final part of the development of the Ballyroan civic quarter, which includes the refurbished and extended Community Centre and the new Pastoral Centre, both completed in 2010. The library has a bright double height multi purpose internal street, exhibition areas, seminar room, digital training room. It also has a large reading room with semi-private timber clad pods lining the edge of the library for study, and cheerful reading nooks built into the walls in the children's section.

Energy related Projects in the community- Refurbishment of SDCC Housing Stock



- The Refurbishment of 74 dwellings in Greenfort Shancastle Estate began on site in May 2012 and is on target for completion in the third quarter of 2013. This includes several energy saving measures which directly benefit tenants in relation to their energy costs and improved quality of life.
- The refurbishment and energy-upgrade project for 22 apartments at Pearse Brothers Park and Palmer Park, Ballyboden started in October 2012 and is targeted for completion in the second quarter of 2013 (well ahead of schedule). This provision of energy efficiency measures and the enclosure of entrances with additional private outdoor spaces for tenants will greatly enhance the quality of life for the existing occupants of the dwellings and the impact of the housing blocks on the landscape.
- The Warmer Homes Area Based pilot project for Low income homes was completed in 36 SDCC houses in Brookview Estate between September and November 2012.
- External Insulation and upgrading of 6 Dwellings was carried out in Tara Hill Grove, Rathfarnham between October and December 2012.
- Over 180 Dwellings had their windows and external doors replaced with thermally efficient units in 2012. 43 empty houses had energy upgrading measures carried out in conjunction with the relet works, with ASD Clerk of Works monitoring the energy saving measures installed.
- Over 7,000 families had their boilers serviced by the Council in 2012 in an ongoing maintenance regime which ensure efficiency of the central heating systems in the housing stock.

Other Community and residential projects with ASD design supervision input



The extension of Rowlagh Community Centre, containing a dedicated crèche, dance-studios, internet café and club rooms as well as a refurbished sports hall was completed in June 2012. The community facility at Ballycragh began on site in August 2012. It contains a range of community spaces, a multi-purpose hall, café and sheltered children's play area. It is on target for completion in August 2013.



Nine dwellings at Taylor's Lane in Ballyboden; an urban infill carefully integrated into the existing community/environment and with new house-types, was completed in May 2012.

Small works extensions to meet specific access needs were completed in four dwellings during the year and another four are in progress for completion in 2013. A house for a traveller family in Cherryfield is also scheduled for completion in 2013.

Cross Departmental collaboration projects for Infrastructure, Public Amenities and for the Department of Education Schools Programme include;

- The provision of changing facilities for our Sports public amenities, in association with Environment Department
- Tallaght Transport Interchange – design of a hub at LUAS terminus as part of Tallaght Movement Strategy Plan and including some consultation with The Square regarding upcoming planning applications for retail
- Dodder Valley Bridge – consultation on design of a pedestrian and cyclist bridge over the Dodder as part of the Tallaght to Ballyboden cycle route
- Schools Programme – consultation with the Department of Education and liaising with the Planning Department regarding selection and acquisition of sites suitable for primary schools in the SDCC area.

Design services to Corporate Services Department for alterations and fit outs of County Hall both for in-house and leasing to third parties.

Conservation, Statutory Duties and Training

ASD is actively involved with Conservation and heritage of our protected structures. Works include; the conservation works to the roofs and rainwater goods and ancillary works at the Court of Petty Sessions, Main Street, Rathcoole, and at Kilcarbery House, off Nangor Road, Kilcarbery, Co. Dublin.

ASD manages the monitoring of Dangerous Structures in the County, including fire and structural collapses, and carries out reports and evaluations.

The Department includes training as part of the Continuing Professional Development Programme- in-house lunchtime sessions are regularly held to update staff on technical guidance and materials specifications. Three members of staff are also attending a Building Information modeling software training programme.

The staff of the department remains committed and flexible with its involvement with local communities, villages and neighborhoods and looks forward to 2013.

South Dublin County Council – Energy Efficiency Report 2012

Overview of Energy Usage in 2012

As the second largest Local Authority in Ireland, South Dublin County Council has a vast building stock, consisting of offices, libraries, depots, pump stations and so on, with over 200 individual electricity accounts and 26 natural gas accounts, the main heating source of the Council's larger buildings. South Dublin County Council has a large fleet of vehicles, 739 in total which consume over 880,000 litres of fuel. South Dublin County Council has 32,000 street lights.

In 2012, South Dublin County Council consumed the following in energy:

- 4,597 MWh of electricity in it's 11 largest buildings which includes it's leisure centres and other buildings managed under licence (DEC data);
- 1,788 MWh of electricity in it's 36 pumping stations;
- 6,598 MWh of natural gas in it's 11 largest buildings (DEC data);
- 5,894 MWh of diesel
- 3,276 MWh of gasoil
- 117 MWh of petrol

Actions Undertaken in 2012

In 2012 the South Dublin Sustainable Energy Action Plan was officially adopted by the Council. This has identified four energy targets to be achieved by 2020 which are:

- Covenant of Mayors has been signed committing SDCC to reducing CO2 emissions by 20%
- 20% reduction in energy demand in county over 2006 levels
- 33% reduction in SDCC own energy demand
- 16% of final energy consumption in county to be from renewables

Energy Efficiency Projects carried out in 2012 included the following:

- Continued improvements in County Hall
- Continued refurbishment of council housing stock including boiler and window replacement programmes
- Energy Awareness Programmes for council staff, local schools, residents and businesses – 'Connect with Energy' and 'Eco Week'
- Energy Audits complete in all Council Depots – energy efficiency measures identified
- Energy Audits of all Library buildings and energy efficiency measures identified
- Esker Pumping Station reduced speed operation installation
- Survey of all pumping stations
- Public Lighting LED Pilot Project
- Public lighting in Forest Hills - installation of 100No. photocells
- Public Lighting in Springfield Ave. – upgrade of 56no columns and lanterns
- Installation of GPS telemonitoring linked to GIS on 300 fleet vehicles saving 6% in first quarter of 2013
- Sustainable travel projects including permeability projects in Knocklyon and Adamstown

Actions Planned for 2013

In 2013 South Dublin County Council intends to further improve our energy performance by carrying out energy efficiency actions which include the following:

- Continued improvements in County Hall to include lighting pilot study
- EPLACE project in County Library
- Measuring and verification of energy efficiency projects
- Energy Awareness Programmes for council staff, local schools, residents and businesses
- Energy Audits of County Hall and Leisure Centres
- Green Community Centres Programme
- Green Depots Programme

- Public Lighting ESCO Pilot Project with all Dublin Local Authorities
- Sustainable travel projects including permeability projects in Corkagh Park, Deansrath, Melrose and Marfield

Municipal Renewable and Sustainable Technology Projects

In addition to the above, South Dublin County Council has been committed to the use of renewable technologies such as Solar Panels, Wood Pellet Boilers and Geothermal Heat Pumps to create energy from sustainable resources for the heating requirements of Council Buildings and help reduce their Carbon Footprint. There have been a number of initiatives carried out on Capital Works Projects undertaken by South Dublin County Council Architectural Services Department which aim to create working models of sustainable technologies which can be monitored and assessed in use for incorporation in future projects.

The technologies listed below have been incorporated into pilot projects to date:

- Evacuated tube solar panels
- Heat exchangers
- Combined heat and power plant (CHP) in Tallaght Leisure Centre
- Wood pellet boiler in St Marks Youth and Family Centre
- Energy efficient lighting
- Geothermal ground source heating in Ballyroan Library (completed 2012)
- Photovoltaics in Valhalla sheltered housing
- Smart controls and metering

Refurbishment and Energy Upgrade Programme

South Dublin County Council has 9,200 Dwellings in its housing stock. Since 1999, this Local Authority has concentrated on improving the fabric and heating systems of the older housing stock. More than 3,000 of the older housing stock now have greatly improved cavity wall and attic insulation. 2,800 dwellings have improved efficiency heating systems. Single glazed windows were replaced with double glazed aluminium units in 1,200 dwellings. Where extensive refurbishment, which includes insulation, replacement windows, heating and draft proofing, is carried out, this has resulted in an average 37% reduction in energy consumption, which represents a significant improvement in these older dwellings, and has a direct benefit to tenants in reductions in utility bills and an improved quality of life as a result.

Environmental Services

The Environmental Services Department delivers services in the following areas –

- Waste Management,
- Environmental Protection,
- Environmental Maintenance of the Public Realm,
- Environmental Education, Initiatives and Events,
- Control of Animals and Food Safety,
- Recreational Facilities,
- Fire Services and Emergency Management

The Department is organised around the main work programmes –

Waste Management Planning and Infrastructure

- **Waste Management Plan** – The Dublin Regional Plan remains the policy framework for the Region while new National Government Policy was introduced that requires a re-organisation of Waste Regions and reviews of all Waste Management Plans
- **Ballymount Waste Transfer Station** – The Council owned facility was taken over by a private sector operator as this major facility continues to contribute to the effective management of waste in the region
- **Ballymount Civic Amenity** – 103,543 visitors delivered 4,815 tonnes of recyclable waste to the facility
- **Arthurstown** – Final Capping of the landfill, at a cost of €4.5million, continued as part of the Aftercare requirements of the EPA Waste Licence
- **Council Owned Historic Landfills** – Two Historic Council owned facilities at Friarstown and Waterstown continue to be monitored, assessed and controlled to ensure potential environmental risks are managed
- **Recycling Facility Programme** – 4,849 tonnes of glass material was delivered to 46 Bring Bank Sites by environmentally conscious residents

Environmental Licensing and Enforcement

Authorisations are held by 595 facilities and producers in the county. The Council also co-operates with the EPA and Dublin City Council in the supervision of 17 Waste Licensed facilities. 162 Waste Collection Operators, of which 12 are household collection service providers and the regulation of 28 unlicensed landfills that are located within the county. The main areas of activity come within the following areas –

- **Waste Management** – 32 permitted/certified and 17 licensed facilities within the county. 427 inspections carried out.
- **Historic Un-Licensed Landfills, Waste Disposal and Recovery Sites** – 26 sites within the county. Preliminary risk assessments have been completed on each site. The Council is working closely with the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government and landowners to progress remediation and mitigation measures at these sites.
- **Water Licensing and Pollution Control** - 445 Discharge to Sewer and eight Discharge to Water Licenses were issued in 2012. 1,035 monitoring inspections carried out.

- **Environmental Health** - 710 complaints in relation to air and noise pollution and public health nuisances were investigated 2012 resulting in 30 enforcement actions.
- **Litter Control** – 1,199 litter fines (On-the-spot and Direct Prosecutions) were issued with a further 198 Notices requiring property owners to remove various forms of litter. 27 of the 216 prosecutions initiated have been secured with the remainder progressing through the courts system.

An extensive programme of monitoring and supervision covering these facilities is delivered every year under the Council's RMCEI Plan. Activity in the Environmental Licensing and Enforcement section increased in 2012. A comparison of 2011 Vs 2012 is set out below –

Activities	2011	2012
Permit or Registered Producers	293	595
Complaints Responded to	6,233	5,542
Inspections Carried out	3,523	5,254
On the Spot Fines Issued	832	1,165
Warnings or Statutory Notices	854	602
Legal Action		
Prosecution for Non Payment of Fines	182	216
Prosecution of Offences Under Waste, Litter or Environmental Legislation	17	34 (LPA Waste -1)
High Court Orders/Injunctions	3	1

The remaining areas of activity under the Environmental Licensing and Enforcement work programme are as follows –

- **Control of Animals** – Council Veterinary Inspectors carried out 14 inspections at Dog and Horse Pounds in 2012. 9,532 dog licenses and 1,551 fines were issued. Operating under the Control of Horses Act, in 2012 the Council impounded 380 animals and issued 46 horse licenses. Veterinary Inspectors also inspect all accommodation proposed under horse license applications.
- **Food Safety and Veterinary Services** – Council Veterinary Inspectors, on behalf of the FSAI, Dublin City, Dun Laoghaire Rathdown and Fingal Councils and with the Department of Agriculture, supervised 31 Facilities. The Inspectors also carried out 678 Food Safety and Veterinary Inspections across the Dublin Region.
- **Derelict Sites** - 31 initial inspections and follow-up inspections have been carried out during 2012. One Section 11 Notice was served
- **Enforcement of Bye Laws** - During 2012, 42 fixed payment notices were issued under the South Dublin County Council Bye-Laws prohibiting the consumption of Intoxicating Liquor in Public Places following detection by the Gardaí.

Environmental Maintenance/Maintaining the Public Realm

Under this heading work is undertaken at in excess of 20,000 work sites. Over 200 staff, 600 pieces of machinery and equipment and approximately €80,000 are deployed/spent each day in the delivery of these services.

The Public Realm Maintenance programme is an extensive programme covering the following areas -

- **Town and Village Cleaning** – A dedicated street cleaning resource deployed at eight town and village centres provides over 16,000 hours of street cleaning within the county
- **Litter Picking** – A Routine Litter Picking and Estate Cleaning Programme targeted at approximately 750 housing estates and other locations provides over 7,000 litter picks and the removal of 759 tonnes of material during the year.
- **Litter Bins Programme** – Over 600 litter bins are inspected and serviced approximately 30,000 times throughout the year.
- **Illegal Dumping** – Routine visits to approximately 30 dumping blackspots and the removal of dumped material from a total of over 7,000 tasks resulted in 815 tonnes being removed from the environment.
- **Street Sweeping Programme** - The contract for the sweeping of roads and associated services delivered a total of 7,308 km of road sweeping and 47,000 road gullies cleaned in 2012.
- **Tree Management** – The annual Programme for 2012 delivered tree management and pruning in over 1,000 locations including residential and public space areas of the county.
- **Grass Cutting** – The three weekly cyclical grass cutting programme was significantly disrupted by bad weather during the summer of 2012. Services were delivered however at over 650 locations as weather permitted. Grass Cutting Programme, running from early March to late October, plans for approximately 7,500 cuts at these locations.
- **Pitch Maintenance Programme** – Maintenance of 162 playing pitches catering for the 87 sports clubs based in the county comprising 691 teams and approximately 14,000 players who use these pitches on a weekly basis during the playing season.
- **Burial Grounds Maintenance** - Maintenance services were provided at 18 Burial Grounds including grass cutting, disposal of waste, maintenance of roads, paths and maintenance of boundary walls and fences and development works. In 2012, there were 610 burials in the Council's graveyards.
- **Graffiti** – A dedicated graffiti crew dealt with 234 tasks throughout 2012. An additional 149 tasks were carried out by the Probation Service.

During 2012, these programmes were made available to the public through the Council's website.

During 2012, a major rationalisation of work programmes and re-organisation of staffing and work practices was initiated and is expected to be fully implemented in early 2013. This re-organisation will deliver significant efficiencies in the programme in the future.

Environmental Education, Initiatives and Events

A broad ranging programme aimed at the promotion of positive sustainable and environmental action and activities amongst communities and groups in the County -

- **Environmental Awareness** - Promotion of education and awareness of all aspects of the environment to schools, households, communities and businesses. A large number of campaigns were run during the year dealing with:
 - Anti-litter and anti-graffiti,
 - Responsible Dog ownership,
 - Water conservation campaigns and promotions,
 - Energy efficiency campaigns and initiatives,
 - Sustainable and environmental workshops and information sessions,

- Eighth annual Eco-Week hosting a variety of environmental workshops and events,
- Stop food waste campaign, and
- [‘How to manage waste from your home’](#).

The [Tackle Litter](#) video was also released and received almost half a million hits on YouTube.

- **The Green Schools Programme** – 85 Schools involved in promoting all aspects of good environmental action in the areas of Litter and Waste, Water, Energy, Travel and Biodiversity.
- **Social Credits System** - The programme was expanded to incorporate community clean-ups in 2012 and the number of applications rose to 991. While the rewards available were expanded to include access to a broader range of Council facilities and services, agreement was reached with Tallaght Hospital and IT Tallaght to expand into Health and Educate Credits. These will be developed and implemented in 2013.
- **Tidy Towns Initiative** - A Tidy Towns Initiative was launched in 2012 aimed at promoting community participation in maintaining the living environment of the county. The initiative has helped the number of entries to the national competition grow from one to six in 2012, with a further three groups preparing to make that nine in 2013. A Tidy Towns Network was also launched under the initiative.
- **Pride of Place** - Co-ordination of South Dublin County Pride of Place entries resulting in three awards.
- **Halloween Initiative** – The Halloween Awareness and diversion initiative continued with the distribution of information postcard to all households, removal of bonfire material, free access to Ballymount Civic Amenity for residents and the promotion of the Social Credits system contributing to a safer Halloween in 2012.
- **The Haunted Festival** – A celebration of Halloween by community and youth groups in Tallaght and Clondalkin was launched to a very positive reception and is hoped to develop further in 2013.

Recreational Facilities

- **Parks, Pitches and Play Grounds**- 1,700 hectares of public parkland, open spaces, river valleys including five Regional Parks, 50 Neighbourhood Parks and 14 children’s playgrounds are provided. Sports and recreation facilities are also provided. 162 playing pitches are available to cater for the 87 sports clubs based in the county comprising 691 teams and approximately 14,000 players who use these pitches on a weekly basis during the playing season.
- **Corkagh Park Fishery** - Over 7,000 anglers and fishing enthusiasts visited.
- **Camac Valley Tourist Caravan and Camping Park** - 14,218 campers visited this four star facility
- **Outdoor Exercise Equipment** - Installation of 131 pieces of outdoor exercise equipment in 11 parks around the county
- **Allotments** – Over 260 avid gardeners keep allotments at Tymon, Corkagh and Friarstown
- **Grange Castle Golf Course** - 41,347 rounds of golf played at Grange Castle Golf with a club membership of approximately 500.
- **Tallaght Stadium** – The Public Realm Maintenance Programmes include maintenance of the Stadium at Tallaght which won the LAMA Award for Best Sporting Facility and the Airtricity Pitch of the Year in 2012
- **Events in Parks** – Over 1,500 events take place in association with organisations, local communities, schools and residents associations

Major Emergency Planning

The Council continued to participate in planning and training activities organised by Eastern Region Working Group and internally. Co-ordination, co-operation and detailed response arrangements between the various Agencies involved continues to develop.

Fire Services

The Fire Service is a shared service operated by Dublin City Council on an agency basis for all of the Dublin Authorities. This includes the emergency ambulance service in the County. The primary fire station for South Dublin County is located at Belgard Road, Tallaght.

Development, Economic and Transport Planning

The Development Economic and Transport Planning Department plays a pivotal role in the physical, economic and social development of South Dublin County. Together with its traditional roles of Development Plan preparation, Development Management and Planning Enforcement, the Department is now proactively involved in the physical development of the County. Its role includes, implementing the Adamstown and Balgaddy/Clonburriss SDZ Planning Schemes, resolving issues of Urban Design and Conservation, achieving the objectives of Integrated Area Plans, development of Local Area Plans and major project development and management and Property Management for the entire county.

In 2012, the Department continued to secure external funding for Projects in the areas of energy planning and sustainable travel in particular. This has enabled diversification into complementary fields of work, and provided the opportunity to bring more investment into the County.

Adamstown SDZ

Adamstown was designated as a Strategic Development Zone in 2001. As Development Agency, South Dublin County Council is committed to ensuring that Adamstown is a sustainable urban community and that development occurs at a pace whereby it is supported by all necessary facilities and infrastructure.

At the end of 2012, there were 1,249 homes occupied, supported by a rail station, dedicated bus service, three schools, shops, a neighborhood park, playing pitches and other transport, drainage and utilities infrastructure. While no new residential phases commenced in 2012 work progressed on The Paddocks and Adamstown Square areas. Significant progress has also been made on taking completed infrastructure and developments into the Council's management. The roll out of Adamstown is ongoing and a review of the Planning Scheme will be carried out in 2013.

TRANSPORT PLANNING

In 2012, €1,017,743 was secured from the National Transport Authority (NTA) for the following projects:

- Sustainable Travel Projects
- Travel Smart Communities

South Dublin County Council funded by the National Transport Authority implemented a travel behaviour change campaign titled "Travel Smart Communities" in 2012. This is the first large-scale travel behaviour change programme rolled out in an Irish context. The first phase targeted 14,000 households in Lucan and Clondalkin between March and October 2012. Travel advisors engaged with 4,000 households by door-knocking, 10 schools and with the wider population through group events and an information campaign. The primary aim of the campaign was to encourage individuals to take alternatives to the car where these are available by providing tailored travel advice, incentives and resources. Monitoring showed that over a short timeframe the package of measures delivered began to deliver positive changes in travel behaviour with a two percent drop in private car trips overall and a five percent drop among those engaged at the doorstep, mainly in favour of walking. Among school children

there was a 10 percent reduction in car drop offs with increases in the numbers walking and cycling to school. South Dublin County Council is currently in discussions with the National Transport Authority about rolling out similar initiatives in the future. Up to Date Information on Travel Smart Communities will be posted on www.travelsmartcommunities.ie



Tallaght Cycle Network Plan

South Dublin County Council completed an analysis of the Tallaght Cycle Network in 2012 which identified strategic cycling routes to link Tallaght Town Centre with neighboring towns, villages and the city centre. It also identified ways of making the town centre more permeable to ensure that cyclists can move easily around the town and to provide a choice of routes to get cyclists to their destinations.

South Dublin County Council acted as a central stakeholder in the National Transport Authority's cycle analysis for the Greater Dublin region. The analysis process started in 2012 and aimed to identify and prioritise opportunities for investment in the cycle network. The findings of the Tallaght Network Plan were added into the regional cycle network plan for the Greater Dublin Area 2012, which is due for completion in 2013.

Tallaght Cycle Network Analysis

The Tallaght Cycle Network Analysis was completed and submitted to the National Transport Authority (NTA) in February 2012. The analysis identified strategic cycling routes linking Tallaght Town Centre with neighboring towns, villages and the city centre. It also identified ways of making the town centre more permeable to ensure cyclists can move more easily around the town and to provide a choice of routes to get cyclists to destinations. The Tallaght Cycle Network Analysis fed into a Regional Cycle Network Plan, prepared on behalf of the NTA in 2012. It has also formed the basis of additional funding secured from the NTA to upgrade the existing route from Tallaght Village to Templeogue via the N81; a new route from Tallaght to Knocklyon; and for a route through the Dodder Valley from Tallaght to Dublin City.

Strategic Cycle Routes

As a result of the Tallaght Cycle Network Plan analysis (see above), funding was secured from the National Transport Authority for preliminary design work on a number of routes, including a new route from Tallaght to Ballyboden; and a route along the Dodder Valley from Tallaght to Dublin City.

The preliminary design and Part 8 process for the new cycle route from Tallaght to Ballyboden was completed in 2012.

A feasibility study for a regional walking and cycling route along the length of the Dodder from Bohernabreena to the river mouth at Grand Canal Square was also completed in 2012.

Tallaght Town Centre Movement Framework Plan and Interchange

Following the submission of the Tallaght Network Analysis (see above) to the National Transport Authority (NTA), the NTA commissioned South Dublin County Council to carry out a Movement Framework Plan within the Tallaght Town Centre Area. The Tallaght Town Centre Movement Framework Plan incorporates a package of physical measures on key streets and junctions within the Town Centre, to calm traffic, enhance pedestrian and cyclist safety and improve the urban setting and sense of place.

The plan was progressed during 2012 and the draft report will be submitted to the National Transport Authority in 2013.

The NTA also commissioned an examination of the area in the vicinity of the Tallaght Luas Stop. The feasibility of developing an 'Interchange' area was examined. Work will continue on this project in 2013.

Permeability Projects and Local Links

South Dublin County Council is constructing a number of walking and cycling routes to service local communities throughout the County. Routes completed in 2012 include a walking and cycle route through Corkagh Park from Fonthill Road to Clondalkin Village; and a route in Knocklyon linking communities from Templeroan to Knocklyon District centre via the Dargle Wood area. Funding was also secured for the preliminary design stage of some additional routes throughout the County. These include the completion of Part 8 processes for a walking and cycling route from Grange Road to Grange Downs; including some upgrade works along Grange Road and a second walking and cycling route at Esker in Lucan.

The feasibility for a number of potential new permeability routes was also progressed in 2012.

These local links will create more sustainable neighborhoods with direct pedestrian and cyclist links to popular local destinations. The aim is to encourage people to leave the car at home for short trips by bringing more households within easy walking and cycling distances of local amenities. In many cases the proposed links are based on existing short cuts. The upgrades of these routes will enable cyclists and pedestrians, including those with mobility impairments to access safe, direct, hard surfaced routes to the local shops, schools, community centre, bus, rail or LUAS stops, cycle routes or the parks and playgrounds.

Cycle Stands at Local Centres

During 2012 cycle stands were provided at a number of town, district and local centres throughout the county. Existing cycle shelters and stands at high frequency bus routes were renovated

Forward Planning and Projects

County Development Plan

The completion of the two year Mid Term Review of the County Development Plan in 2012 indicated that there has been significant progress in implementing the objectives of the current Plan on a range of issues. These issues include housing choice, location and type, sustainable transport measures, energy initiatives, green infrastructure, habitat protection, flood prevention, advance school provision and a review of the Section 48 Development Contributions Scheme.

In keeping with the cross-cutting, multi-sectoral nature of the Development Plan objectives, many of the plans, projects and programmes that are now being advanced by the Council are based on inter-departmental, multi-disciplinary team working. This has enabled the Council to be successful in securing external funding and support in pursuance of many of these objectives and to engage on an ongoing basis with Government Departments and external agencies.

The Mid-Term Review was accompanied by the first South Dublin County Development Plan Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Monitoring Report detailing the results of measuring the environmental impact of the implementation of the County Development Plan 2010 to 2016 by means of selected indicators (as required by Article 10 of the SEA Directive). The majority of the indicators are derived through a web based SEA Monitoring System created to capture critical data at the planning application decision making stage. This provides both a means of monitoring significant environmental impacts of implementing the policies and objectives of the County Development Plan and also, as information builds up over time, will enable evidence based policy analysis and review.

Overall, it is apparent that the system that South Dublin County Council put in place to monitor the impacts of the policies and objectives contained in the County Development Plan 2010 to 2016 as required by Article 10 of the SEA Directive is working well. No thresholds, at which corrective action is required under the Monitoring Framework, have been surpassed. The SEA Monitoring System indicates that none of the applications granted within the time period is likely to result in the loss of any designated ecological site within the South Dublin County area. The core strategic aim of the Development Plan is to promote a more consolidated and compact urban form for the County. Of the permissions granted since the Plan became operational, 84.3 % are on Brownfield sites, 11.1 % are on Greenfield and 4.6 % are in the Strategic Development Zones (SDZ's).

Variations to the County Development Plan

South Dublin County Council has adopted two Variations to the County Development Plan 2010 to 2016 since its adoption. The First Variation related to the provision of a retirement village in Ballynakelly, Newcastle, Co. Dublin and the second Variation, adopted in July 2012, related to Casement Aerodrome, Baldonnell and the insertion of a protocol into the Development Plan 2010-2016 to allow the Planning Authority to consider appropriate development of existing zoned land within the Casement Aerodrome security zone, without compromising the security of the Aerodrome.

Both Variations were accompanied by a parallel process for Strategic Environmental Assessment and Appropriate Assessment in accordance with the respective European Directives on Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitat Assessment.

Local Area Plans (LAP)

The Fortunestown Local Area Plan and the Newcastle Local Area Plan were completed and approved in 2012 and came into operation on the 14 May 2012 and the 10 December 2012 respectively.

The Fortunestown LAP provides a framework for the integration of a series of neighborhoods that were isolated and poorly connected. A vibrant District Centre at City West, now serviced by the Luas, provides the focus for a series of sustainable neighbourhoods with a good mix of residential accommodation and community facilities. The concept of Green Infrastructure was used for the first time as a primary strategy in a LAP and provides for a green network which integrates open space, recreation, biodiversity, landscape character and the sustainable management of surface water and manmade heritage.

The challenge in the Newcastle LAP was maintaining the historical village as a unique place with a good quality of life and facilitating a layout that integrates new development with the existing village and the surrounding area. The production of a high quality "artist's impression" layout provides both the community and developers with a vision that translates a series of innovative policies into a workable template.

Both LAPs employ phasing requirements to ensure that essential community infrastructure will be delivered as part of the development.

Each stage of the LAP process was accompanied by a parallel process for Strategic Environmental Assessment and Appropriate Assessment in accordance with the respective European Directives on Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitat Assessment. An Initial Strategic Flood Risk Assessment was also prepared for each area as part of the process. All of this work was completed in-house providing considerable financial savings in 2012.

Twelfth Lock Masterplan

In late 2012, work commenced on the Twelfth Lock Draft Masterplan in accordance with Specific Local Objective (SLO) No. 37 of the South Dublin County Development Plan 2010-2016. Strategies are being developed to ensure that the Twelfth Lock will be developed in a co-ordinated manner as a high amenity activity hub. The hub will link and serve cultural, community, recreational, tourism, sports, employment and enterprise uses, while protecting and enhancing the Grand Canal pNHA, adjacent wildlife habitats and historic canal and mill structures.

Tallaght Town Centre.

The 2011 Census profile for the Town Centre shows a vibrant population (4,200) with higher than county average employment rates and excellent public transport, cycling and walking rates. The Council is continuing to work with various receivers and NAMA to resolve outstanding issues in relation to the Town Centre developments. It is anticipated that this will in time considerably reduce the amount of vacancy in the area.

Sustainable Transport Measures Grants

Tallaght Town Centre Movement Framework Plan

Further to the work carried out on the Tallaght Cycle Network, completed in February 2012, the National Transport Authority (NTA) provided additional funding for additional traffic modeling analysis and the preparation of a Movement Framework Plan for the Tallaght Town Centre Environs.

The Tallaght Town Centre Movement Framework Plan will incorporate a package of physical measures on key streets and junctions within the Town Centre, to calm traffic, enhance pedestrian and cyclist safety and improve the urban setting and sense of place. The Plan will include preliminary costings for the agreed set of measures and an implementation and phasing plan for the roll out of upgrade measures.

The Plan will be supported by:

- A Movement Framework Plan and Traffic Management Strategy that defines the street hierarchy within the Town Centre and provides a clear strategic rationale for proposed changes; and
- A Traffic Model for the Town Centre that demonstrates capacity within the network to accommodate the agreed package of measures.

SDCC Planning Department staff coordinated the preparation of a working draft of the Movement Framework Plan which was submitted to the NTA in December 2012. The Draft document is currently under review and it is anticipated that a Final Movement Framework Plan will be completed early 2013. Once completed the Tallaght Town Centre Movement Framework Plan will encompass a coordinated package of measures within the Town Centre area that will form the basis for future funding applications to the NTA.

The Tallaght Town Centre Interchange project is one of the emerging schemes from the Movement Framework Plan that has received additional funding from the NTA to take to detailed design stage during 2013.

Smart Travel National

DMURS (Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets)

Several Planning Department staff were at the core of a working group that also included representation from Kildare and Fingal County and Cork City Councils. This work was undertaken on behalf of, and was funded by, the Department of Transport, and overseen by a Steering Group that also includes Department of Environment, Community and Local Government (DECLG) representation. SDCC played a key role in hosting project meetings and project administration as well as technical input to and co-ordination of the preparation of the final document.

DMURS outlines practical design measures to encourage more sustainable travel patterns in urban areas. The Manual sets out design guidance and standards for constructing new and reconfiguring existing urban roads and streets in Ireland, incorporating good planning and design practice. The document is designed to be universally accessible to all design professionals associated with street design, including Architects, Engineers, Planners and Urban Designers.

DMURS was officially launched by Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport Leo Varadkar on the 25 March 2013. The Manual is now live and its use is mandatory for all Local Authorities for all urban roads and streets within the 60km/h urban speed limit zone.

Conservation Section

South Dublin County Council's Record of Protected Structures contains 544 Structures, 105 of which are public authority owned. There are five designated Architectural Conservation Areas within South Dublin County. They are Tallaght Village, Rathfarnham Village including Willbrook, Lucan Village, Clondalkin Village and Palmerston Mills. This designation has been very successful in the conservation, protection and enhancement of those areas South Dublin County Council consider of great architectural quality and character.

The Conservation Grants Scheme for Protected Structures which is administered by the Council's Architectural Conservation Officer and Section has also been successful in ensuring that owners of Protected Structures are provided with grant assistance to undertake necessary conservation and repair works to secure and protect their structures. The conservation grant scheme funded by the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government was paused during 2011 and replaced by the Structures at Risk Scheme (SRF) funded by the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

The Council made two applications under the SRF Scheme 2012 but neither was successful.

The Planning Department's Architectural Conservation section (in partnership with the Heritage Officer), continued to assist and advise in relation to the survey and record of the Protected Structures in Council ownership which was being undertaken by Architectural Services Department.

Heritage Section

A range of objectives under the County Heritage Plan 2010 to 2015 were targeted and achieved during 2012.

The following Heritage Plan projects received up to 75% grant-aid from the Heritage Council under their County Heritage Plan Funding Support Programme:

- An ecological survey of the Dodder between Old Bawn Bridge and Fort Bridge.
- National Heritage Map Viewer, where SDCC contributed heritage data for uploading to a national web-based data viewer displaying heritage-related features throughout Ireland.
- An Industrial Heritage Survey, the output of which is a database and GIS of historic industrial sites, providing base-line data on the historic economic development of the County.
- Palmerston Church and Graveyard Survey, where an archaeological condition survey provided the requisite information to inform a local community maintenance project.
- Rathcoole Village Design Statement, which allowed the process to start towards the preparation of a Community-led Village Design Statement for Rathcoole.

Other heritage projects undertaken under the County Heritage Plan included:

- Collaborative and cost-sharing projects with the Dublin Heritage Officers Network, including support for the publication of a book on historical mapping and surveying in

Dublin and the production of a series of planning guidance notes on protected species and habitats.

- Applications for two feasibility studies (The Slade Heritage Trail and the Aviation Heritage Museum).were developed and submitted to LEADER for funding.
- Support for a County Library-led project which is developing an archive of oral history and digitised artefact records relating to the events of Easter 1916.
- The survey of Council-owned Protected Structures continued. In conjunction with Architectural Services, a total of eight building structures have now been surveyed. Two archaeological monuments have also been surveyed by qualified archaeologists.
- Following the completion of three detailed ecological surveys along the Dodder, habitats and species maps have been prepared for the full length of the Dodder within South Dublin County for the first time.

The Heritage Officer also continues to input advice to planning decisions, Local Area Plans, legislative issues, customer queries, and other Council projects requiring heritage and biodiversity information. Input was also made to the Grand Canal Rural and Royal Canal Rural Product Development Study led by Waterways Ireland.

Dublin Mountain Partnership (DMP)

The partnership approach has proved to be an excellent model for managing and delivering recreation services in the Dublin Mountains. The DMP continues to manage, protect and develop this valuable resource in a sustainable way that best serves everyone's interest. The DMP continues to implement the strategic objectives and actions set out in the revised Dublin Mountains Strategic Development Plan (DMSDP) for Outdoor Recreation 2007 to 2017. The DMP is well recognised for the valuable work it has achieved over the last three years. The Partnership has demonstrated its ability to deliver high quality projects of varying scales, on time and in a cost efficient manner. This work provides benefits to the local residents and citizens of South Dublin, the Greater Dublin area and nationally along with enhancing the tourism potential of the County.

The Dublin Mountains Way which officially opened in 2010 as a new trail linking Tallaght in the west to Shankill in the east is subject to regular on-going monitoring and maintenance and continues to be recognised officially as one of the country's National Way-Marked Ways. Maintenance and upgrades of the route were carried out in 2012 in conjunction with this monitoring

Improving the recreation infrastructure is essential to providing a better recreation experience and to attracting new users to the mountains. An ongoing programme of trail improvement is in place and a number of sections of trail have been upgraded and way marked in 2012. Trail maintenance on many of the trails was undertaken by the volunteer rangers. Additional signage with site information and maps is installed at all the main forest entrances and car parks. This has been supplemented by the 'Watchable Wildlife' project with information panels provided on wildlife at locations where the featured wildlife is likely to be seen.

The volunteer rangers hosted many guided walks along sections of the Dublin Mountains Way throughout the year. These free guided walks have become a regular and well regarded feature of the Rangers' programme of activities.

Kiltipper Woods Care Centre café along the route continues to be popular with walkers as well as visitors to the centre.

Improving information on the mountains and how visitors can access and make use of the resource is a key area for the DMP. Usage of the website www.dublinmountains.ie continued to grow throughout 2012 and combined with the development in 2012 of a DMP social media presence is proving a very popular source of information on the mountains and events taking place. These are regularly updated with news and upcoming events, and provide visitors with maps and information about the recreation sites.

One of the most encouraging developments relating to the work of the Dublin Mountains Partnership over the last few years has been the establishment of a strong volunteering community of people willing to assist in the management and protection of our forests and mountains on Dublin's doorstep. Volunteering in the outdoors is an activity that contributes in many ways, not only to the environment, but also benefiting the volunteer, who gives of their time freely because of a love of the outdoors. Volunteers speak enthusiastically about the days they spend in the outdoors as rangers working on trails, leading guided walks, stewarding events and carrying out conservation work.

With decreasing resources available from national government or local funds, volunteering for the outdoors makes a positive contribution to managing recreation. Volunteering builds connections between recreation users and the local community and with the recreation resource, encouraging a greater sense of ownership, involvement and participation in managing recreation and protecting the mountains. This was supplemented in 2012 by the development of an 'Adopt a Forest' scheme where groups have taken on a role in monitoring usage of a particular forest and carry out minor maintenance or clean-up, thereby enhancing the visitor experience.

The Volunteer Ranger Service comprises a team of 24 volunteers. All Volunteer Rangers commit at least two days a month. They are an extremely enthusiastic and committed group of people. All relevant training is provided to ensure the volunteers are as effective as possible.

"Google" the major search engine company runs an annual programme called "serve day" which encourages employees to contribute time and labour to local community projects. As in 2009, 2010, and 2011 a team of volunteers came out in 2012 to help with trail maintenance work.

A consultative forum for stakeholders in the Dublin Mountains continues to engage with the DMP. This group met twice in 2012 and provides an opportunity for local people to keep abreast of the work of the DMP and for the DMP to listen to the ideas and concerns of local residents and businesses.

The five permanent orienteering courses across the Dublin Mountains continue to be well used by the public and for organised school outings. The orienteering maps, instructions and school workbooks are available to download on the DMP website www.dublinmountains.ie

At the Hell Fire site, a new automatic barrier has been installed along with CCTV monitoring of the car-park. This has facilitated the extended opening times of this car-park. The car-park at Cruagh Wood in 2012 became available 24/7. The usage of the car-park for these extended hours is being monitored on an on-going basis by both the Volunteer Rangers and Coillte staff. Extended opening of the other car-parks will be further explored in the coming years

The work of the DMP has received excellent coverage in both national and local media sources. This highlights the interest, both in Dublin City and nationally, in the work and achievements

of the DMP. The DMP is demonstrating that partnership between different organisations with similar objectives works and achieves results.

Review of Quarries

The review and assessment of six quarries in the County for the purposes of Section 261A of the Planning and Development Acts 2000 to 2010 was completed in 2012. This evidence based review focused on compliance with the EU EIS and Habitats Directives. The review and determination were subsequently assessed following representations by An Bord Pleanála.

Planning Applications

In 2012, the Council received 549 valid planning applications. This represented a decrease of 19.85% on 2011. There were 554 decisions made in relation to planning applications during 2012, 503 grants of permission, and 51 refusals. Seven applications were declared withdrawn during 2012. There were 29 invalid applications received in 2012 and a further three applications deemed invalid due to the Site Notice not being in accordance with the regulatory requirements.

106 applications for Fire Safety Certificates were received in 2012.

84 applications for Disability Access Certificates were received in 2012.

Enforcement

A total of 263 new enforcement files were opened in 2012. Warning letters were issued in 253 cases during 2012 and Enforcement Notices were served in 128 cases. District Court proceedings were initiated in 14 cases. No new Circuit Court proceedings were initiated in 2012. 15 cases were resolved following the issuing of District Court proceedings. One Circuit Court Order was resolved. 104 cases were resolved without the necessity to apply to the Courts.

Development Contributions

South Dublin County Council's Development Contributions Scheme 2010 to 2017 was reviewed during 2012, through the Councils Economic Development SPC and a Working Group on Economic Policy. Following the review a new scheme for the period 2013 to 2015 was adopted in accordance with Section 48 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) by the Elected Members on 14 January 2013. The new scheme introduced an expanded number of exemptions and a core rate of charge that is 26% less than the previous scheme. It is applicable to grants of permission from the 15 January 2013 to the 31 December 2015.

The total development contributions received under Section 48 schemes from 2004 to 2012 is over €125million, with €4.5million collected in 2012.

At the end of 2012 the balance which remained owing in respect of contributions levied under Section 48 is around €28.5million with a provision of around €16.9million for bad debts, mainly relating to developments invoiced but not completed or developments not occupied.

Section 48 development contributions in the sum of €6.6m were applied to capital projects during 2012.

The Council also adopted Supplementary Development Contributions Schemes (under Section 49 of the Act) for the Metro West line in 2008 (on behalf of the Railway Procurement Agency) and the Kildare Route Project Supplementary Development Contributions Scheme in 2007 (on behalf of Irish Rail).

However during 2011, following the Governments announcement of the suspension of the Metro West Project, the Elected Members of South Dublin County Council resolved to suspend the Metro West Supplementary Development Contributions Scheme.

Economic Development

In response to the current economic climate and Government Policy, in particular, the Action Plan for Jobs and 'Putting People first', this Council continues to undertake a wide range of actions in support of economic development. These actions include:

- The development of an Economic Strategy for the County. (Agreed at December 2012 Council meeting)
- The consequent development of an action plan (Also agreed at December 2012 Council meeting).
- The ongoing work of a sub group of the Planning and Development SPC.
- Support for the sustaining business executive, (under the Sustaining and Developing Business Programme started in 2011), in conjunction with South Dublin Chamber.
- Ongoing support and assistance for the IEN, including the ongoing creation of work space in a central area within County Hall.
- The interagency approach involving the relevant stakeholders embedded in the economic subgroup of the County Development Board (CDB).
- The physical presence of the County Enterprise Board (CEB) in County Hall and the progress made on the concept of an "Innovation Hub" in that public area.
- Ongoing development work for the creation of the Local Enterprise Office (LEO), this will build on the existing physical presence of the CEB in County Hall.
- The working relationships established with local agencies, business and national bodies through the "Sustaining and developing business programme".
- Ongoing support for local business through the development of specific activities in the County libraries.
- Social media and other form of IT training for members of the IEZ and other interested parties.
- A full monthly update on the eight outcomes identified in the Council's Strategic Support towards business development and survival is provided at the Corporate Policy Group Meetings.

Property Management

Property Management is responsible for the management of the Council's property portfolio including the updating of the property register, maintenance and short-term letting of lands, collection of rents on leased properties including ground rent on dwellings and so on. Staff

regularly monitor the property market in the County and surrounding area for indicators of price and identify potential strategic acquisitions that the Department might consider. Lands acquired by the Council and not required for immediate use are sometimes rented out for grazing and tillage purposes or are otherwise maintained by the Council within the resources available. Temporary Convenience Lettings of lands/properties are also granted sometimes, until the lands/properties are required for the Council's statutory purposes.

The referencing of ownership of lands in the Council's administrative area in relation to a range of property management and development projects is carried out by the property management section. The inspectors also carry referencing works in the land registry on behalf of other departments within the Council. For example planning, roads, finance, rates and so on. .

Land Disposal and Asset Management

The Council disposes of lands which are required for community, educational, health facilities, or for housing or commercial development and infrastructural works (for example rail lines) and in the interest of good Estate Management. Disposals range from large housing sites to small areas of land to be incorporated into adjoining properties to eliminate incidences of anti-social behaviour or required by land owners to increase their ownership.

Given the current market value of land, the Department carefully evaluates, in conjunction with the Chief Valuer's Office, whether or not it is prudent (or appropriate), to recommend a disposal of land to the Council. Disposals of lands may be effected by outright disposal of freehold title or grant or renewal of leases for specified periods and restricted uses for example: lease of land for sporting, community purposes.

Land Acquisition

The Council acquires land and property by Agreement or by Compulsory Purchase Order to fulfil the Council's requirements for the provision of motorways and roads, housing, community facilities, industrial development and parks, environmental services; and by Deed of Dedication for open spaces.

While there have been no Compulsory Purchase Orders made in recent years, the Council continued to negotiate and process compensation claims on lands acquired under earlier Compulsory Purchase Orders. It also acquired some small portions of land in 2012 by agreement to facilitate road works. While most claims are successfully agreed between the Council's Valuer and the Claimant's Valuer, an increase in the number of complicated claims being referred to the Property Arbitrator has been experienced in recent years. Skilful preparation of reports and so on by Council staff for appearance before the Arbitrator, and valuable experience of the technical and administrative staff involved, has resulted in some cases being resolved before these cases are actually heard.

The Council continued in 2012 to process compensation claims in respect of lands affected by the construction of the Boherboy Water Supply Scheme.

Acquisition of sites for school planning

The Department of Education and Skills (DES) has identified that there is a need to accommodate an additional 45,000 primary school pupils and almost 25,000 post primary school pupils nationally by 2017 or 2018. The level of increased demand will require that many of the permanent solutions will be needed within three years. On the 1 June 2012 a Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of Education and Skills and the County and City Managers' Association (CCMA) for the Acquisition of Sites for School Planning came into effect. South Dublin County Council has been working closely with the DES to acquire sites to deliver urgently required schools in the county. In February 2012 the DES requested that SDCC identify appropriate sites for permanent primary schools at the following locations:

- Newcastle
- Firhouse and Oldbawn
- Lucan
- Jobstown and Tallaght
- City West
- Saggart

Following consultation with the DES in May and June 2012 a refined shortlist of possible sites in each location was drawn up and site valuations were finalised in July and August 2012. SDCC is pursuing the acquisition of these sites, in an expedient manner reflecting the urgent requirement for permanent schools at the above locations. SDCC is currently in negotiations with land owners of the preferred permanent sites with the aim that permanent schools will be opened by September 2015 or 2016.

Grange Castle Business Park

The Council supports commercial and business development both indirectly by providing essential infrastructure and services, and directly by provision of serviced and zoned lands.

Over the last number of years, South Dublin County has experienced continuing commercial and industrial development by the private sector. The Park is considered one of the four parks nationally that is suitable for large scale of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI). However this stage is becoming more crowded with competitors from Eastern Europe and Asia competing on a global basis with lower labour and service costs. To counteract the competition Grange Castle Business Park markets itself based on its strategic location and the quality of service that the Council and the Facilities Management Company can offer a client company.

Pfizer, Takeda, Microsoft and Arysza AG (Cuisine de France) facilities are now well established in the Park. Works were completed on the extension to the Takeda facility during the year. Planning permission was granted to Microsoft for construction of phase 2 of their data centre facility comprising 11,090 sq. and this was completed in December, 2012.

These major clients have delivered high quality sustainable investment and employment in South Dublin County.

The Council also played an active role in facilitating the establishment of two other data centres in Profile Park which is adjacent to Grange Castle Business Park, with the Google Ireland Limited new data centre opening in September 2012.

Grange Castle Business Park and surrounding area was identified as an ideal location for the development of a "free trading zone" to cluster mega data centres which would support international innovation and Research and Development centres. These were a core component of the successful submission to Your County Your Call as part of the Data Island Strategy.

Grange Castle Facilities Management Ltd. (a Management Company Under the auspices of South Dublin County Council) continued its role in 2012 over all responsibility for the management and maintenance of the entire Park including security and landscaping.

Roads and Water Services

Overview, Strategic Direction and Current Schemes

Some Statistics

- 930 KM of Roads - 32Km National Roads
112Km Regional Roads
786Km Local Roads
- 30,200 Public Lighting Columns
- 93 School Wardens
- 138 Signalised Pedestrian Crossings
- 144 Sets of Traffic Lights
- 77 CCTV Locations
- 84 ANPR Cameras
- Zebra crossings

Roads Construction

Newlands Cross

The proposal is to upgrade and replace the existing N7 and Newlands Cross Junction with a grade separated interchange. The Scheme consists of

- Provision of grade separated junction at Newlands Cross
- Provision of new traffic signal controlled access junction at Belgard Road
- Extinguishment of existing rights of way
- Associated ancillary works
- EIS Published on 18 December 2007
- An Bord Pleanála approved road development on 6 June 2008.

Present Position: The construction scheme is part of a PPP (Public Private Partnership) bundle contract being negotiated by the National Roads Authority (NRA) and also includes the Rathnew Bypass in County Wicklow. The contract was signed in April 2013 and the construction time will be 21 Months.

Adamstown Road Improvement Scheme (R120)

Proposed road improvement measures to extend south from the Railway Bridge at Adamstown for a distance of approximately 1.2 km in the Townlands of Adamstown, Ballymakailly and Grange.

Present Position: At the County Council meeting on 10 December 2012 Part Eight Planning Permission was approved and agreed to proceed with the Adamstown Road (R120) Improvement Scheme subject to the following modification:

Re-alignment of the vehicular access to the former Univar site and northeast towpath in order to avoid the canal millrace.

The National Roads Authority has allocated a specific improvement grant of €680,000 for 2013 and these funds will facilitate the detailed design and preparation of the CPO.

Nangor Road

Construction of approximately 1.7km of Road Realignment incorporating the Nangor Road (R134) and the Adamstown Road (R120) Regional Road and construction of approximately 0.33km of proposed Road Improvement on the Baldonnel Road.

Present Position: A grant of €175,000 has been approved for 2013 and these funds will assist in detailed design of this scheme.

National Transportation Authority [Significant] Schemes 2012

The “Integration, Sustainable Transport Measures and Support Sub-programme” facilitates investment in the various cycling/walking, bus, safety and traffic management projects throughout the region. In 2012 the Roads Department was allocated €3.43 million to facilitate the advancement of 13 projects. The details of a number of the projects progressed in 2012 are outlined below:

The Old Nangor Road, Clondalkin scheme is currently being constructed on site. The works include an improved footpath provision between the Mill Centre and the schools on Old Nangor Road. The scheme is planned to be completed in June 2013.

Phase One of the Willsbrook Road cycle track scheme has been approved to go to tender by the NTA. The drawings and documents are being finalised. It is planned to go to tender in May and to commence construction in July 2013.

The N4 access and upgrade scheme involved the assessment of the “Liffey Valley” roundabout and the provision of an options report recommending future proposals. The NTA are currently reviewing the options report.

Walkinstown Roundabout. A tender has been issued to the consultants on the NTA framework. The successful consultant will carry out a study of the roundabout and prepare an options report with their recommendations.

Clondalkin Village and Lucan village – briefs are being prepared.

Monastery Road, we are considering works options. Works will be carried out in 2013.

An allocation of €2.185 million has been notified to the Road Department so far for 2013 and the funds are to finance a total of 18 projects some of which are the next stage development of projects designed in 2012.

South Dublin Projects and Initiatives

Traffic CCTV

In late 2012 a new Video Management System was installed in the Traffic Management Centre. The milestone system provides a cohesive CCTV system which manages all on-street traffic camera feeds and is scalable. All users are identified by login and user logs. The system permits remote login providing access for designated staff during events or emergencies.

RITS-Net

Regions for Intelligent Transportation Systems are a 75% ERDF funded Intereg 4c project. South Dublin County Council is one of nine member partners. It studies the best practice for the deployment of Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) for regions across the EU following the 2010 EU directive on ITS. 'ITS' is the application of ICT within the traffic and transportation sector. More information on RITS-Net is available at rits-net.eu

Public Lighting Asset Management

In December 2012 the Public Lighting Section commenced operation of DeadSure asset management system. Through DeadSure the Public Lighting Section manages the entire public lighting system including an excess of 11,000 maintenance actions each year across 30,000 street lights. Faults can be logged in the system at the first point of contact and directly appear for the maintenance operation complimenting the ongoing fault patrol. Streamlining the public lighting fault system has allowed significant refocusing of resources away from reactive and onto planned maintenance.

Parking TAG

Parking within pay and display areas in South Dublin County Council will be now be possible using mobile phone payment through the Dublin Wide Parking Tag System. Developed by Dublin City, registration for use of the system can be made immediately prior to parking. The system will be available in all South Dublin County Council pay and display areas from mid 2013. The payment system reduces reliance on expensive machine and coin management.

Dublin Collaboration

Within the traffic and transportation section collaboration with sister authorities has taken place in the areas of public lighting, parking and the recent responsibility for bus stop management. Several public lighting trials are being shared across Dublin and experiences are exchanged. A common parking machine maintenance contract is now in place and Parking Tags are being extended county wide. Local authorities are now tasked with the management of bus stops, collaborative work towards a consistent approach is ongoing.

Safety and Maintenance Programmes

Low Cost Safety Measures Schemes – Ballinascorney Improvement Scheme a grant of €172,000 was allocated in 2012.

Regional Signposting Programme – Grant aided, €250,000

Local and Regional Roads - Restoration Improvement and Maintenance Programme. A reduced grant of €3.72 million was allocated to South Dublin County Council for use under the above heading in 2012.

A sum of €450,000 was provided by the Council for the continuation of the footpath refurbishment programme within the county.

Road Safety Promotion and Education – Bike Week, Bike Scheme, School Wardens, Cycle Training, Road Safety Authority Campaigns, Casualty Reduction, Road Safety Officer and so on.

External Policy Development Activities

Roadworks and Licensing Working Group

A working group has been established by the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport (DTTS) to address the policy aspects of any barriers that impact on the deployment of telecommunications infrastructure by agencies under its remit.

In order to progress the development of the on-line roadworks system as part of MapRoad (LGMA) a meeting was held in early 2012 at which the development team meet with South Dublin County Council staff to present an updated position and to highlight some of their planned future developments. During the course of the meeting they asked for a demonstration of the Council's current on-line system. It was agreed that once they had time to collate the information gathered arrangements would be made to facilitate future meetings.

A further aspect of this development involved the setting up of a working group to examine and update the guidelines for backfilling of trenches at roadworks (purple book) (SDCoCo). The Senior Engineer Roads Maintenance is representing the Council on this working group.

South Dublin County Council is the project co-ordinator.

NTA - Transport Planning Policy and Guidelines

In terms of transport planning policy within the Greater Dublin Area (GDA), the Authority is required to publish a Strategic Transport Strategy, an Integrated Implementation Plan and a Strategic Traffic Management Plan. To date the Authority has published a Draft Transport Strategy and will prepare an Integrated Implementation Plan in 2013. While the Authority has no statutory remit in this regard outside the GDA, they have been heavily involved in plans across the country through providing technical assistance and advice to local and regional authorities.

The Authority produces policy and technical guidance to build upon and develop a policy platform and to aid local authorities, other state agencies and the general public on how they see policy being implemented on the ground. To date the Authority has published documents on travel to school, travel planning guidance for workplaces and guidance for local authorities on securing travel plans via the planning process.

The Authority is currently preparing further guidance on transport planning for schools, residential development, retail warehousing, permeability in urban areas, and freight. All of these documents are scheduled for completion by the authority in 2013 and are being

developed in conjunction with the relevant government departments and local and regional authorities.

Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) – Core Dublin Network

Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) has emerged in recent years as an effective, cost efficient and high quality public transport system. The National Transport Authority therefore had an interest in exploring the concept further, and determining how it could apply in our capital city.

The “Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) – Core Dublin Network” report below describes and defines a system concept for BRT in the Dublin context. The system concept was defined based on the examination and assessment of the typical components and features that make up a BRT system.

The report also describes the feasibility study that was carried out in relation to a proposed core BRT network for Dublin. It identifies a core network comprising of two cross-city BRT corridors: (1) Blanchardstown to UCD; and (2) Clongriffin to Tallaght.

It concludes that the two identified corridors have a significant transport demand commensurate with a BRT system and are appropriate for development as the core BRT network for the city. It also recommends that further detailed planning work should proceed in relation to these corridors.

Planning and design work in relation to these two corridors is currently on going.

Smarter Travel Initiatives

Smarter Travel Initiatives or Mobility Management Initiatives are a broad collection of different programmes which support and encourage people to choose sustainable transport options.

These initiatives can benefit individuals in terms of health and cost of travel, and can save organisations time and money. They also benefit the State in terms of reducing congestion, emissions, exploiting investment in sustainable transport infrastructure and promoting a more active and healthier population.

Smarter Travel Initiatives are often site-specific initiatives such as Workplace Travel Plans or School Travel Plans. However they can also have city-wide, regional or even national application like car-sharing, car clubs or public awareness campaigns. These initiatives can support, and be supported by, transport infrastructure.

Smarter Travel Initiatives are outlined in government transport policy “[Smarter Travel: A New Transport Policy for Ireland 2009-2020](#)”.

The National Transport Authority has developed the following smarter travel initiatives:

- [Smarter Travel Workplaces](#)

- [Green Schools Travel](#)
- [Community Travel Plan Pilot – Adamstown](#)
- [Carsharing](#)

All of the above are supported by the Council and ongoing efforts are applied to furthering these initiatives.

Water Services

The Water Services section of the Council co-operates as part of the Greater Dublin Regional Water and Drainage Steering Groups. This approach enables a consolidation of resources which reduces costs and ensures high quality of service provision to the people of South Dublin. However water is a limited resource and there is a major study underway to identify new water sources for Dublin. This work will be a priority in the coming years and reports have already been made to the Environment Strategic Policy Committee. Wastewater treatment capacity is at a critical level across the Dublin Region and plans are under way to increase the capacity of Ringsend Wastewater Treatment Plant and to build a new regional plant in north Fingal.

Water Maintenance and Operations

South Dublin County Council purchases about 69ML each day of treated water from Dublin City Council's water treatment plant at Ballymore Eustace and about 1ML each day from Fingal County Council's water treatment plant at Leixlip. This water is distributed throughout the County through about 1,500km of water mains and our three main storage reservoirs at Belgard, Peamount and Saggart. The water is distributed to approximately 90,000 households and 5,500 metered commercial customers. South Dublin has a public water supply from a borehole in Brittas which supplies approximately 120m³ each day.

South Dublin rolled out a drive-by meter reading system in 2009. This system gives us accurate consumptions for all commercial customers on which to base Water Charges, and is a useful tool for resolving customer queries. The Water Inspectorate carries out all meter reading and resolving of associated queries, including leak and meter tamper alarms. A trial of two solar powered electromagnetic meters started in August 2012 and has proved satisfactory. These meters were installed at schools, complimenting their green flag policies and feedback has been positive. It also gives us further choice when it comes to selecting appropriate meters for new customers and in our meter replacement programme.

Works progressed on the final phase of the Boherboy Water Supply Project throughout 2012. This project involves the construction of a 24ML reservoir at Saggart, a 17.5ML reservoir at Kiltalown, approximately 45km of new water mains, linkages and controls to incorporate all new works into the existing water network. The project is currently at commissioning stage (April 2013).

The quality of drinking water is monitored and analysed regularly and complies with all the requirements of the European Communities (Drinking Water) (No. 2) Regulations 2007. 3,898 tests were carried out on the water in 2012 and 99.9% of samples were in compliance, which is above the national average as reported by the EPA. Details of all non-compliant samples

and summary of results are regularly updated on the Council's website. There were no significant non-compliances or water quality issues in 2012.

During 2012 the Water Section repaired 94 burst mains, and carried out maintenance or replacement of 30 fire hydrants, 45 sluice valves and 480 services.

There were no significant weather related crises in 2012. This was a welcome respite following the previous year which had serious weather related challenges with major freezes during the winter which caused problems with increased burst mains, frozen services and increased demand due to private side bursts and water wastage. 2011 also had drought conditions during the summer with a consequent reduction in availability of raw water. These crises were managed effectively in 2011 and disruption was minimised. There was one significant outage during 2012 which occurred in November and was due to an issue at a water treatment plant outside South Dublin County Council's control. The outage was managed in line with the Council's Drinking Water Incident Response Plan. Lessons are learned from the various incidents referred to above and used in revising our plans, and also used to identify network improvement priorities in our work programmes.

The Dublin Regional Water main Rehabilitation Project continued in South Dublin in 2012 with one project carried out at Oldcourt Road.

The Water Section Inspectorate based at Deansrath Depot provides a key support to developers, other Council Departments and outside agencies. This is through the implementation of the Council's Specification for the Laying of Water Mains and Drinking Water Supply (latest edition January 2012), the Council's Water Bye-laws for the Management of Water Services and Conservation of Drinking Water 2004, the EC Drinking Water Regulations 2007 and the Water Services Act 2007.

The Mechanical Section working in conjunction with the Water Section has continued to implement energy efficiency measures in the Water pumping station network. This has consisted of replacing pumps with intelligent variable speed drives, thereby adjusting the pumps speed to the water demand required at any given time. This has reduced electricity bills, plus reduced maintenance costs, with an additional benefit of increasing the particular pumps life.

Water Network Management

The Council continues to participate in the Dublin Region Water Conservation Project (DRWCP) which commenced in 1998. The current phase of this project is at maintenance and rehabilitation stages and day to day water management is undertaken by a small dedicated team. The water mains infrastructure is recorded on a Regional GIS system which is maintained by each of the Dublin Local Authorities within the Greater Dublin Area.

Water distribution is managed using Logica Telemetry which remotely monitors the flows and pressures at 120 locations across the county and facilitates efficient weekly programming of leakage surveying works. Unaccounted for Water (UFW) losses in South Dublin County averaged 16.42% in 2012. The implementation of pressure control measures are assisting the Council to achieve the 2016 UFW targets of 16%, as set by the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government. 33 new Pressure Reducing Valves (PRVs) were commissioned in 2009 under the Water Conservation Programme in order to reduce mains pressure locally and thereby reduce leakage. The installation of 33 Day and Night Controllers is complete. Comparative data available to date indicates that savings of 2,363 m³ each day are being achieved in 29 of the 33-PRVs. 27 additional PRVs were commissioned

during 2011 and 2012 as part of the Boherboy project. These measures will optimise the management of scarce water resources.

Due to the raw water storage crisis in 2011 most PRVs were adjusted from 3 June to give no more than 15m daytime pressure and those with Day and Night Controllers have been adjusted where possible, without causing customer complaint, to give 10m night time pressure (10 pm to 7 am). The resultant savings average 1.75 Ml each day from 4 June 2011 to end January 2012. These pressure control measures remain in place. The heavy rainfall in late October 2011 resolved the raw-water crisis, with Poulaphouce reservoir level increasing by 1.63m from 22 to 25 October.

Dublin Regional Water Conservation Project (DRWCP) Status

The updated Générale Des Eau Report 2000 recommended a reduction of distribution losses (DL) to 20% by 2007 and 16% by 2016. SDCC is working progressively towards the 2016 DL target. Our target DL for 2011 was assessed on the final 2010 DL baseline as 19.40%. However, the preliminary Census 2011 report indicates an increased domestic population of 262,520 (264,174 less residents of hospitals, prisons and so on). This has reassigned about 2ML/day of SDCC's total water usage as domestic demand rather than Unaccounted for Water.

Drainage

Drainage Maintenance and Operations

The Drainage Maintenance and Operations Section is based at Deansrath Depot, Clondalkin. This Section is responsible for maintaining and improving the South Dublin County Council Drainage System which comprises of approximately 1,500 km of foul and surface water public sewers.

In 2012 the major work in this section consisted mainly of constructing new foul and surface water pipelines to overcome problems thrown up after the deluge on the 24 October 2011 and the cleaning of water courses, streams and rivers to try and prevent flooding of properties in the future.

Areas included:

- a) Relaying surface water sewers in Aranleigh Court, Rathfarnham due to flooding from tree root infestation.
- b) Stocking Avenue: well sealing and rebuilding manholes due to the ingress of surface water into the foul system
- c) Lealand Drive, Clondalkin: laying new surface water sewer to prevent flooding
- d) Hazel Grove, Tallaght cleaning out water courses to prevent flooding
- e) Whitehall Road West near Ashleaf Shopping Centre: upgrading foul sewer to prevent blockages
- f) Brittas Canal Bridge, Mountseskin Road: cleaning out water course to prevent flooding
- g) New Road and St. Brigids Road: junction rearranging surface water system to prevent cottages flooding
- h) Knockmore Avenue, Tallaght: laying French drain in park area to prevent flooding.
- i) Poddle River: cleaned from Tymon Park to City Boundary
- j) Rathcoole Park: diverting Camac River away from the Springbank Cottages to prevent flooding

k) Bancroft Park and Gleview Park: laying overflow foul sewers to prevent flooding.

Works and Services include:

- River and stream flood management works such as screen maintenance. Three new screens installed on the Poddle River with cameras on two of them at Kimmage and Wainsfort Manors.
- Unblocking and freeing up of public sewers
- Remedial work on sewerage infrastructure
- Upgrading and refurbishing pumping stations at Quarryvale, Esker Lane, Newcastle and Whitehall Road
- Maintenance of network of pumping stations
- Emergency call outs
- Taking over the drainage maintenance of new estates that have been “taken in charge” by the Council
- Providing advice on the Dublin Regional Drainage Code of Practice for Drainage Works.

CFRAMS (Catchment Flood Risk and Assessment Management Studies)

East CFRAM

The Eastern Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) study commenced in the Eastern district in June 2011 and will run until the end of 2015 with flood maps to be issued by end of 2013. The main aims of the Eastern CFRAM Study are to:

- Assess flood risk, through the identification of flood hazard areas and the associated impacts of flooding;
- Identify viable structural and non-structural measures and options for managing the flood risks for localised high-risk areas and within the catchment as a whole;
- Prepare a strategic Flood Risk Management Plan (FRMP) and associated Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) that sets out the measures and policies that should be pursued to achieve the most cost effective and sustainable management of flood risk;
- Ensure that full and thorough public and stakeholder consultation and engagement is achieved.

Dodder CFRAM

Study completed but still to be ratified by the Councillors.

Water Pollution Control

The River Basin Management Plan was prepared and adopted by South Dublin County Council in November 2009. The plan has been adopted by the other counties participating in the ERBD and is in force since June 2010. South Dublin County Council is now implementing the agreed Programme of Works.

Recent Legislation of note has been the enactment of S.I. 272 of 2009 dealing with surface water quality objectives. This broadens the number of parameters that have upper (and in some cases lower) limits with regard to water quality. These limits directly relate to water

quality status for example high or good, as aimed for in the ERBD Plan. New regulations SI No. 101 of 2009 EC (Good Agricultural Practice for the Protection of Waters) Regulations 2009 were enacted and as a consequence the previous 2006 and 2007 Regulations were revoked. Some changes of note are contained in the new regulations but its business as usual for the Water Pollution Control section with regard to this legislation. The EPA issued a Code of Practice for Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Systems for Serving Single Houses (p.e. ≤ 10). This has been included in the new county development plan as the document of reference for appropriate wastewater treatment not on the public sewer system.

Since 2009 there have been several legislative enactments relating to septic tank registration, training and inspection: the most notable of these being the Water Services (Amendment) Act 2012, the Water Services Acts 2007 and 2012 Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems (Registration) Regulations 2012, the Water Services Acts 2007 and 2012 (Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems) Regulations 2012, and the Water Services Act 2007 (Registration and Inspections) Regulations 2012. This legislation forms the basis for local authorities to protect surface water and groundwater from malfunctioning domestic waste water treatment systems. The legislation also provides for a National Inspection Plan on this matter, produced by the EPA, which identifies risk rated areas within each local authority.

In 2012 the Water Pollution Control Team initiated a trade effluent licensing programme of all food service establishments in the county. At the end of the 2012 period 430 establishments had been identified and inspected and of these 307 (71.4%) had been issued a license with the remainder to be licensed in 2013. The benefits of this programme will be the reduced number of blockages of the foul sewer network and fewer overflows of sewage to roads and rivers.

Water and Drainage Design/Projects

The Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government approved the following schemes to advance through planning under the Water Services Investment Programme 2010 to 2012:

- South Dublin Sewer Scheme 9B
- Dodder Valley Sewerage Scheme
- Saggart, Rathcoole, Newcastle Sewerage Scheme
- Water Conservation Stage 3 Works
- South Dublin Secondary Chlorination

The Boherboy Water Supply Scheme is now at commissioning stage (April 2013).

Alternative energy sources are being investigated as summarized below. Following an assessment of the pilot studies one or both of these technologies will be rolled out across 10 to 12 of the proposed outstations. The remaining locations will be connected to ESB.

Solar:



A trial of the WCIL solar system, in Hibernian Industrial Estate is ongoing and has been live from the 29 February 2012. Modifications have been made to the outstation and converter to minimise power demand. The solar panel will be able to run two pressure transducers in addition to the existing flowmeter.

Hydroelectricity:



A trial of an IPL turbine generator in Finnstown DMA started in December 2011 with the installation of the turbine. This will use the hydraulic energy of water flowing in water main to power the outstation (a PRV is required) and can supply 14w continuously.

Section 3- Organisational Matters

Corporate Services

Corporate Services Department continues to make improvements and better use of resources to ensure the provision of quality information, improved customer service to residents of the County and support the Members of the Council in delivery of their obligations to the electorate.

Corporate Services interacts and provides support to all Council Departments and has general responsibility for Mayor and Members support, Communications, Customer Care, Internal Audit, Civic Buildings, Staff Facilities, Procurement, Register of Electors, Higher Education Grants, Events Management, Twinning and Freedom of Information.

Register of Electors/Local Electoral Areas

Corporate Services Department compiles the Register of Electors on an annual basis. The total number of electors registered on the 2012 to 2013 Register of Electors published on 1 February 2012 was 184,186. The breakdown of this figure across the five local electoral areas was as follows:

Local Electoral Areas

Clondalkin:	37,105
Lucan:	32,611
Rathfarnham:	32,672
Tallaght-Central:	44,967
Tallaght-South:	36,831

The supplement to the Register of Electors contains the names of qualified electors omitted from the final register (published on 1 February). Two supplements were prepared in 2012 to facilitate voting in the Fiscal Treaty Referendum in May and the Children's Referendum in November.

Local Democracy and Public Representation

South Dublin County is a democratic organisation represented at local level by 26 Councillors who are elected to South Dublin County Council every five years. Local Elections are due to be held in June 2014.

Public Representations: Over 4,000 public representations were managed through the Council's online Members representation system during 2012. These representations were made by members of the Oireachtas and by local Councillors.

Meetings: During 2012 Elected Members participated in approximately 140 formal meetings relating to core Council business including;

- Annual
- Budget
- Monthly Council
- Area Committees

- Organisation, Procedure and Finance
- Strategic Policy Committees
- Corporate Policy Group

In addition, meetings related to other activities of the Council in which the Elected Members also participate including Audit Committee, Joint Policing Committee, County Development Board, County Tourism, Traffic Management Committee, Deputations.

Information about the Council's meetings and committees, including agendas and minutes, can be found on www.sdcc.ie under Your Council.

Payments: The following is an outline of payments made to or in respect of Members of South Dublin County Council during 2012.

Allowance	€
<i>Members Representational Payment</i>	<i>434,821</i>
<i>Members' Annual Allowance</i>	<i>165,831</i>
<i>Members Training and Development (including Conferences and seminars) expenses</i>	<i>16,230</i>
<i>Members' Mobile Phone Allowance</i>	<i>15,600</i>
<i>Mayor's and Deputy Mayor's Allowance</i>	<i>63,860</i>
<i>Strategic Policy Committee Chairpersons' Allowance</i>	<i>36,000</i>
<i>Members' Retiring Gratuity</i>	<i>17,535</i>

Higher Education Grants

In September 2012 all new applications for Higher Education Grants were dealt with by SUSI (Student Universal Support Ireland). South Dublin County Council continued to process renewal applications for those students who were already in receipt of a grant from the Council in previous years.

Higher Education Grants are awarded to students in accordance with the Student Grant Scheme (issued annually) which is governed by the Student Support Act 2011.

Under the Higher Education Grants Scheme for the 2012 to 2013 academic year approximately **795** students were awarded grant assistance in respect of Maintenance and/or Fees. A total amount of **€4.5** million was paid out in Higher Education Grants during the 2012 calendar year.

Reform of Procurement Policy

During 2012 work continued on implementation of the objectives of the Council's Corporate Procurement Plan.

Training and up-skilling in procurement efficiencies continued during the year. Training focused on the needs of staff in relation to skills and tools required to award contracts in a fair, transparent and equitable way. During the training particular emphasis was placed on best practice and value for money.

Ownership of Facilities 'Spaces for Change'

Throughout 2012, the Council continued to explore ways of using our various buildings and facilities to welcome communities and other agencies to work together in a focused way to provide enhanced services for our citizens. The County Enterprise Board, Dodder Valley Partnership, South Dublin Volunteer Centre and the Jigsaw Project are now located in County Hall, Tallaght and the County Childcare Committee in Clondalkin Civic Centre. In addition the 'Big Picture' building in Chamber Square, Tallaght will now be developed by County Dublin Vocational Educational Committee as Youth Café and Youth Services Facility.

Customer Care

The Customer Care Centres at Tallaght and Clondalkin continue to provide a frontline service in relation to all council services. A highly qualified team provides informed and professional advice, in accordance with the principles and response times set out in our Customer Charter. In 2012 approximately 100,000 customer queries were processed by the Customer Care staff who have access to the databases in operation throughout the Council. This enables staff to deal with enquiries at first point of contact for over 80% of our customers.

The Customer Care Team identifies issues when they occur and regularly raise alerts. Rapid communication processes, direct to teams on the ground enable faster response times and resolution of customers issues. Phone, email and web information postings ensure relevant updates and timeframes.

Customer relationship management systems, developed in house, record customer enquiry information and allow fast access to back end data. Tracking and monitoring of these enquiries ensure quality and efficient service. Statistics show comprehensive responses to enquiries year by year. On average 100,000 queries are resolved each year. Emphasis is on offering choice to our customers in accessing our services, to make payments, or request information. Online contacts continue to increase.

Customer Care manages the payments office in the Clondalkin Civic Centre, making it possible for customers to access the same services and information on a variety of Council services. The footfall to this office is on average 2,000 customers a month. The Centre also provides accommodation to local organisations for meetings and public consultations. A small charge is made to cover security and utility costs.

Ongoing Customer surveys by the staff provide information on service improvement but also give valuable feedback to the Council's training programme. The Team is also involved in monitoring post levels and ensuring discounts are availed of through An Post' bulk postings. There is a saving of approximately €10,000 per year due to this process.

Resource and Performance management is another area in which the Team is involved. Statistics generated by our telephony system is used for resource planning purposes and enables managers to better manage staff deployment. It also highlights recurring business issues allowing resolution of more common types of queries faster. Major cost reductions have been achieved in the areas of mobile and landline business. Current mobile providers are

contracted to provide best deals in running cost and service delivery. The operation of this new telecommunications technology has resulted in a 33% reduction of central landline bills. During 2012, two more Council depots have been connected using VOIP to avail of cost savings and to allow business levels and trends to be mapped and reported on through the Customer Care centre. In 2013 it is proposed to tender for a mobile contract under a new central framework for Government Departments and Local Authorities agreed by the Department of Finance.

Telephone communications is central to service delivery and the system is updated continuously. Following risk management process, a Disaster Recovery protocol was recently developed and is in place.

Communications Unit

The Communications Unit plays an important part in making sure accurate, timely and relevant council information is made available to members of the public, Elected Members and council staff. The Unit is also responsible for the Mayor's Office and the promotion of South Dublin County Council's services and initiatives. This is done using a wide range of communication channels to ensure information is accessible and interesting to all audiences including:

Social Media

During 2012, the Council continued to utilise and develop the social media platforms to promote or communicate services to the community. Social Media provides us with an opportunity to engage in conversations with our citizens and respond to criticism and misinformation through effective media monitoring. In times of limited financial resources, social media is relatively inexpensive and enables the local authority to increase our message reach in the community. Since 2009, we have developed these resources and trained our staff to provide real time information, create awareness campaigns and promote civic events through the following social media platforms: Facebook, Twitter and Youtube

Our aim is to deliver real citizen centred services by sharing information and receiving feedback from our citizens. The Council provides information about the many traditional services we deliver and our innovative initiatives in the areas of the Arts, Libraries, Social Inclusion, Sports and Recreation, Business and Community Development, Accessibility, Road Safety and Environmental Awareness Programmes. Social Media provides the Council with a wonderful opportunity to share this information with a wider audience at relatively little cost.

Corporate Publications: During 2012, the Unit produced the 'Annual Report 2011' and 'South Dublin County Today Magazine'. The Magazine aims to promote local democracy and the many community, business and educational services that the Council delivers to enhance the quality of life opportunities for our citizens.

Membersnet, Staff Intranet and Newsletter: The Communications Unit manages the compilation of and distribution of the internal staff newsletter 'South Circular'. In addition, the Unit provides information and news items for the membersnet and intranet; ensuring Elected Members and staff are kept up to date with important council news at local and national level.

Media Monitoring and Press Releases: The Communications Unit aims to develop and maintain good relationships with the national and local media. In 2012 over 400 media queries

were processed and 125 press releases issued providing information on council initiatives and services.

Filming requests: The Unit processed and co-ordinated the facilitation of eight requests to film TV commercials, documentaries, programmes and feature films during 2012.

Events: Over 200 events were attended by the Mayor in 2012, reflecting the council's interaction with local community groups, schools, businesses and other public bodies. Highlights included Chinese New Year Celebration, Engineers Week, National Bike Week, The Haunted, Social Inclusion Week, Red Line Book Festival, National Accessibility Week and Christmas 'Unwrapped'.

Promotion of the Irish Language

South Dublin County Council continues to develop and support the Irish Language on a county wide basis, some of the key activities include:

- Fix your street, a major success for SDCC is also available for the public as Gaeilge on www.deisighdoshraid.ie and is being used by the public, with 114 hits since it was launched.
- The Second Irish Language Scheme was agreed between South Dublin County Council and the Minister of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, with particular care being taken to promote and develop Irish on websites by SDCC and to continue with all the commitments made in the first Irish Language Scheme.
- Irish is now available in all the interactive Self Service Points in South Dublin Libraries.
- Irish is included on www.southdublinlibraries.ie Online Language Learning, which is free of charge and available to all our members.
- The home page of www.athcliaththeas.ie has been developed to include daily notices and news articles.
- Over 111 events took place throughout South Dublin County, celebrating Irish, which catered for over 7,500 people.
- Facebook was used for the first time in 2012 to promote Seachtain na Gaeilge – www.facebook.com/snagact - and was well received by the public
- Irish Classes and Conversational Groups were held throughout the library network.
- From January to November 2012, 282 documents were translated inhouse, of approximately 100,050 words, giving a potential saving of €13,000 with major projects being the Annual Report and Deisigh do Shráid.
- There were 441 queries registered under the Irish Office or Gaeilge throughout the Council.

Twinning

South Dublin County Council has formal twinning arrangements in place with the London Borough of Brent and Kreis Segeberg in Germany. The Council also supports the community twinning arrangement between Rathcoole and École-Valentin in France. In May 2012, South Dublin County Council hosted a delegation from Rathcoole and École-Valentin. All twinning exchanges ('citizens' meetings') must include a 'European theme'. which will involve widening the participants' knowledge of the EU and its policies, and concrete exchange of experience on various issues. The theme for this years visit was the Connect with Energy Initiative and the

key projects undertaken by South Dublin County Council that have both European and national significance.

Disability Liaison, Access and Equality Office

During 2012 the Disability Liaison, Access Office continued to carry out Access Officer, Liaison Officer and Inquiry Officer functions, as defined in the Disability Act 2005. Equality brief added during 2012.

There was no National Disability Strategy funding available from central government during 2012. Therefore we continued to improve and enable access for disabled people in South Dublin County through focussing largely on non capital actions.

Key achievements in 2012 include:

- South Dublin County Disability Advisory, Consultative Panel hosted a County seminar on the National Housing Strategy for People with Disabilities in October. During 2012 the Panel also made submissions on universal design to the Newcastle Draft Local Area Plan. The Panel also met with South Dublin Libraries regarding their new Development Plan, and assisted in the development of the Council's 'All Active Together' sport for all booklet;
- Tallaght as the main South Dublin County Town was awarded a Special Mention for Accessibility of Public Facilities and Services in the Access City Award 2013. Tallaght was one of only 7 finalists selected across Europe out of a total of 99 applicants. This Award is an EU and EDF initiative under the European Disability Strategy 2010 to 2020. The Awards took place in Brussels on the 3 December which was International Day of Disabled Persons;
- Diverse programme of activities delivered during National Accessibility Week 2012. Activities included distributing the 'Park Right' poster and Jobot's Access All Areas and Access Service information leaflet to every school and community facility in the County. An access awareness Twitter campaign was also run using #NationalAccessibilityWeek. The Cheeverstown House Travel Training graduation ceremony was hosted by the Mayor, and the South Dublin Libraries Disability Studies Catalogue also went live during the Week;
- South Dublin County participated in the LA AON national Transition Year initiative 'Enabling Access Across Generations'. Tallaght Community School represented the County at national level.
- Continued development (in partnership with the other three Dublin local authorities), of the Dublin City Council led [Dublin Access Guide](#). Seven sites in South Dublin County including Tallaght Stadium, RuaRed, Aras Chrónáin and the Louis Fitzgerald Hotel went live with detailed access guides during 2012;
- SDCC became a Kanchi 100 company. The Kanchi 100 initiative requires each of 100 companies to commit to making one change towards creating more inclusive business for disabled people. Our commitment focuses on accessible communication through the use of plain English in Customer Care.
- Disability Liaison, Access and Equality Officer actively participated in the national Local Authority Access Officers (LA AON) and Equality Officers Networks, and in the establishment of the Irish Disability Studies Association.
- Participated in the Planning Department's multi-disciplinary Forward Planning Team.
- <http://accessible.southdublin.ie> site had 2,004 New Unique Users between January and December 2012;

- 15 cases dealt with by the Access Officer Service (includes instances where disabled people required assistance navigating Council services, and where Council staff required advice on providing access for disabled people). Irish Remote Interpreting Service (IRIS), made available at Customer Care in Tallaght and Clondalkin.

Health and Safety

South Dublin County Council is committed to ensuring that all its services and operations are carried out and delivered, as far as possible, safely and without risk to staff and members of the public. The Council has two professional Health and Safety Officers who deliver advice, train and manage the Health and Safety training of staff and carry out inspections and risk assessments. The Council has a Safety Management System in place, which includes having Safety Statements, in all the Council's workplaces. The Safety Statements are reviewed regularly to take into account any changes to work practices, legislation and personnel. A comprehensive programme of safety training is in place to ensure staff are qualified and competent to work safely. This programme includes the FÁS and FETAC national requirements of the Construction Skills Certification Scheme. A new national Local Authority Safety Management System has been approved by the City and County Managers Association and is being implemented at present in South Dublin County Council

Internal Audit and Efficiency Unit

The Internal Audit and Efficiency Unit contributes to the achievement of corporate objectives by independently appraising the adequacy and effectiveness of the system of internal control. Due to the reduction in staff numbers in 2012 and the re-organisation of departments, Management identified inputs to the audit plan which they believed would benefit from an audit review in relation to the control environment. The plan was also brought in line with the financial year and to accommodate this, a ten month audit plan consisting of 10 audits was approved by the Manager and endorsed by the Audit Committee. On request by Management a further three audits were included in the plan. Out of the 13 audits, 12 were completed or in progress at year end.

The Unit also undertook work in relation to the identification of improved efficiencies and also championed the further development of risk management throughout the organisation. It also acted in a consultative role for management and staff. Staff also attended the Chartered Institute of Internal Auditors Conference in 2012.

During the year the Head of Internal Audit was also engaged in the preparation of a national business case for shared services for internal audit. Internal Audit was one of the service areas recommended by the Local Government Efficiency Review Group for evaluation in order to assess if a shared service approach would yield cost savings and service improvements. Recommendations of the external peer review group are currently being reviewed.

Human Resources (HR)

The HR department are responsible for the design and implementation of policies and procedures that support staffing needs and assist in the realisation of Corporate Strategic objectives. HR remained central to the organisation's change agenda through its work in Industrial Relations, Training and Development and Work Force Planning.

Industrial Relations:

On foot of the Public Service Agreement 2010 to 2014 (Croke Park Agreement) a Local Action Plan for the Council was developed to achieve real and effective change in such areas as Restructuring, Shared Services Procurement, eGovernment, and Productivity and Performance. HR coordinated the compilation of the Council's Local Action Plan and negotiated with relevant Trade Unions for its implementation, resulting in significant savings in 2012. HR staff communicates regularly with Unions and staff representatives on issues of concern in accordance with best Industrial Relations practice and utilise the industrial relations mechanisms available including the Right's Commissioner, Labour Relations Commission and the Labour Court when necessary. In 2012 these services were used on 14 occasions.

Training and Development:

HR recognises that staff are a key resource, as demonstrated by our investment and commitment to staff training. In 2012 our expenditure on training services was €1,908,414 (3.28% of payroll) which is in line with the required National Service Indicator or 3% of payroll. A total of 148 training days were attended by 712 staff. In addition the Council was a pilot for the newly established sectorised Corporate Framework Project, which identifies competency for grades throughout the sector and will act as a mechanism for conducting Grade specific training needs analysis. Senior and Middle management have completed the training and will be integrating its use into PMDS in 2013. Our continuing Professional Development accreditation, which is subject to ongoing rigorous annual audit offers support to our engineering and technical staff through mentoring and a centralised shared approach to knowledge management.

HR monitors and proactively manages absenteeism throughout the year with a view to minimising absenteeism levels. In 2012 there were 1,935 days lost to Uncertified Sick Leave and 11,083 days lost to Certified Sick Leave representing a loss of .72% and 4.14% of total hours available. The recently developed integrated HR system 'CORE' facilitates detailed analysis of attendance record ensuring that South Dublin County Council rates of absenteeism compare very favourably with the sector averages. The system which has a comprehensive and integrated reporting management tool facilitates management analysis of staff data across the spectrum of HR disciplines as well as allowing staff members a self service option through the staff portal to manage their leave and time records. There are two occupational health physicians retained in HR who provide a confidential, professional and support service to staff and assist attendance at work

Council policies and procedures are updated on an ongoing basis, having regard to central policy and labour law. New policies in the areas of Social Media Policy, Child Safe Guarding Policy, Garda Vetting Policy and Communications were developed in 2012 in addition to the 24 policies in existence.

Law Department

Advisory Section

The legal department continues to provide advice to the Council to assist Council officials in their decision making and to reduce legal risk to the Council. In addition to advice in the traditional areas of law such as local government, property and litigation, there has also been an increase in advice provided on areas of law such as data protection and privacy, health and safety and the procurement of goods and services.

Property Section

In 2012 the Property Section delivered advice and assistance to our instructing departments with regard to various property matters. These include but are not limited to transactions involving acquisitions, disposals, compulsory purchase of land, mortgages, the voluntary housing sector, capital sports grants and statutory disposals via transfer order. The section incorporated all relevant new legislation applicable to property transactions into its practices. In particular, the significant changes required in dealing with the Property Registration Authority (PRA) as a result of the new legislation, the Land Registration Rules 2012. The previous rules governing the PRA were enacted in 1972. As a result of the new rules the staff dealing with property transactions had to incorporate significant changes into their work practices and documents when dealing with the PRA. Despite the basic procedural changes that had to be undertaken, as a result of 2012 rules, this section continued to deliver a timely and efficient service to our colleagues throughout the organisation.

Litigation and Dispute Resolution Section.

The Litigation and Dispute Resolution Section again dealt with a wide variety of work on behalf of the various departments. This section ensures that the Council's interests are protected in all matters of litigation or potential litigation. This involves providing advice to departments, and both issuing and defending court proceedings in the various courts, on behalf of the Council. The prosecuting of certain offences is also an important area of work.

In 2012 the issuing of proceedings in respect of non payment of rates involved a heavy workload for the litigation section. However new IT procedures adopted by both the Law Department and the debt collection unit has helped to streamline this area of work.

The Law Department also provides construction law advice in relation to the conciliation and arbitration of disputes under public works contracts.

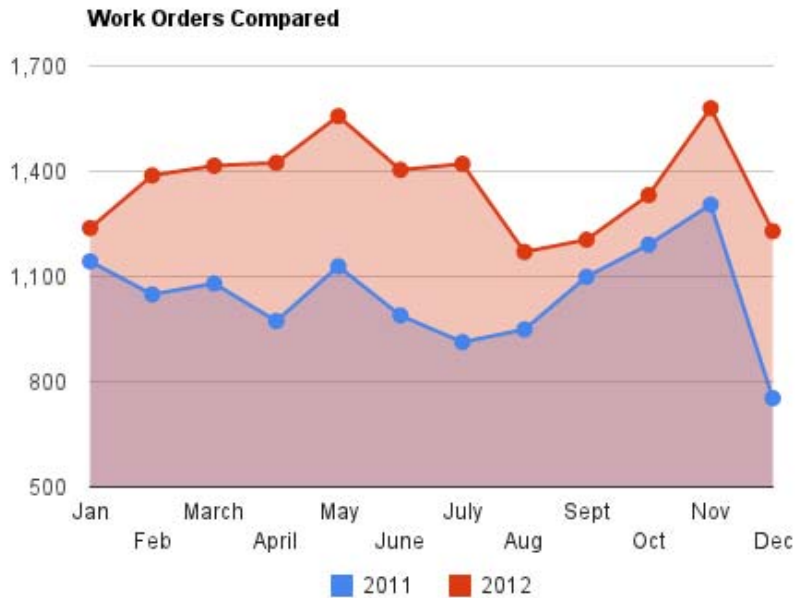
The non payment of rent by Council tenants, continues to generate a substantial body of District Court proceedings, and some appeals to the Circuit Court, as well as applications to the High Court for judicial review.

The section as always was involved in general litigation in areas such as Breach of Contract and Breach of Statutory duty. Other areas of work involved were:-

- Employer Liability
- Waste Management
- Litter
- Control of Dogs
- Control of Horses
- Derelict Sites
- Water Pollution

Information Technology Department

Activity levels rose during 2012. A total of 16,364 technical support calls were logged with the IT Helpdesk during 2012 while a total of 12,573 were logged for the same period in 2011. This represents a year on year increase of 23% in activity for the technical support team.



New Corporate Website

Social media and on-line presence has transformed how local government engages with citizens, allowing agencies to share information and deliver services more quickly and effectively than ever before. As social content, data, and platforms become more diverse, agencies have a responsibility to ensure these digital services are accessible to all citizens, including disabled people.

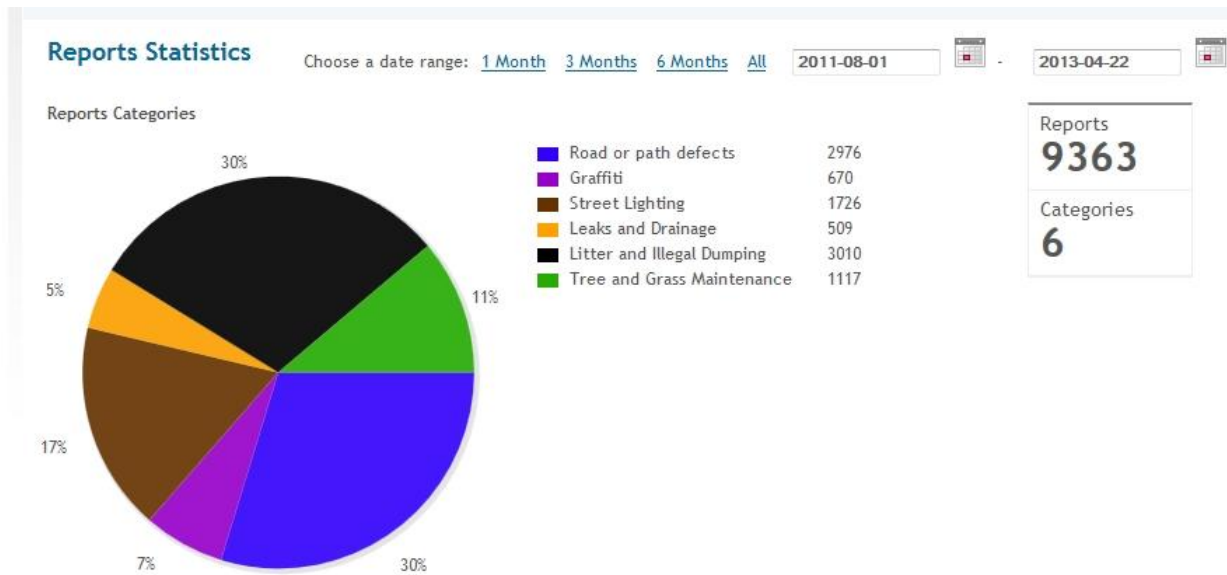
South Dublin County Council launched a new corporate website www.sdcc.ie during December 2012, followed closely by the launch of the Irish version during Quarter One, 2013. The site was redeveloped using an open source content management solution, in line with eGovernment policy and continuing the Council's drive to achieve maximum value from technology deployed. The new website is customer centric, incorporating a service and task based menu layout enabling the citizen, at a glance, to find the service or information they require. The site also has a comprehensive search facility and is fully integrated with the council's social media profile, displaying the 5 most recent messages posted on the corporate Twitter and Facebook pages. www.sdcc.ie complies with W3C Accessibility Initiative Guidelines (WAIG) for priority level 2 (WAI/AA).

www.sdcc.ie Homepage

FixYourStreet

During the course of 2012, Fix Your Street (FYS) was rolled out nationally to all 34 Local Authorities so that it now accepts reports for the entire country. FixYourStreet.ie is a map-based website for the public to report issues and complaints in the public realm to their local authority. Reports can be submitted in a number of ways - through the fixyourstreet website, using the Android App, through email to reports@fixyourstreet.ie or by tweeting with the hashtag #fysie. The service was developed and is run by South Dublin County Council.

To date (April 2013), there have been in excess of 9,000 reports made via FYS and the majority of these are responded to by an official within two working days. Below are the category statistics for FYS. 60% of reports concern 'Road and Path defects' and 'Litter and Illegal Dumping'.



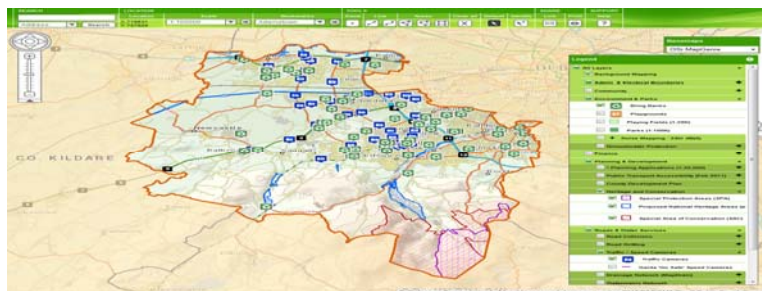
On average, 14 reports are logged to FYS per day. In January 2013, there were 719 reports, 73% of which were responded to in less than two days. Over 60% of all reports in January were responded to within one day, and less than 4% took more than five days to be responded to.

Many Local Authorities are in the process of integrating FYS into their CRM (Customer Relationship Management) systems and SDCC is actively supporting this by providing a monitored test environment and associated documentation.

Interconnected and Spatial Data

OASIS (Online Access to Spatial Information Systems)

The new Intranet Corporate GIS web application, OASIS, officially launched in October 2012. The application accesses data stored in South Dublin County Council's centralised corporate database, the principle data source for the entire organisation. All staff in the organisation has access to shared, complete, accurate, high quality and up-to-date data. Users can now search for information across 63 datasets using address, planning application reference number or financial rates reference number.



OASIS – Displaying data for Bring Banks; Heritage and Conservation; Traffic Cameras

AGOL – (ArcGIS Online)

Development work started in late 2012 on ArcGIS Online, a cloud-based mapping platform for organisations. From anywhere on any device, web browser, or desktop application, the user can access dynamic, authoritative content to create, collaborate, catalogue, and share maps, data, and applications with members of their organisation or the general public. Work will continue, going forward, to develop this service to full potential.

Data Protection

In 2012, the Information Technology Department assumed responsibility for all matters relating to Data Protection for the organisation. As Data Controller, IT must ensure that Data Protection legislation is adhered to.

A number of measures were undertaken during 2012 to improve security of our electronic data including the following:-

Intrusion Prevention System Replacement

A new Intrusion Prevention solution including functionality for firewall, vpn (ipsec and ssl), antivirus and antispyware, anti-spam, email and web filtering was implemented during 2012. It also provides application control, data loss prevention, dynamic routing for IPv4 and IPv6, end point NAC, SSL-encrypted traffic inspection, and WAN optimisation.

Smart Device Management

To ensure that data accessed through corporate mobile devices is secure, especially in the event that it is misplaced, stolen or believed to be compromised, all mobile devices synchronising with SDCC resources are subject to a customised Mobile Device Management Policy applied by the Mobile Device Management System. This system was implemented during 2012 and enforces PIN and password protection as well as encryption of the mobile device.

Laptop Disk Encryption

Disk encryption software and device control software has been rolled out on a phased basis and has been extended to Members laptops to protect corporate data in the event of laptop theft or loss. Whilst laptop encryption protects the data on the encrypted hard-drive, data security can be compromised by the use of unencrypted external hard-drives, USB keys etc. Periodic policy review and staff awareness has been prioritised in this regard.

Local Area Network Upgrade

During 2012, the corporate local area network was upgraded to a converged, secure and scalable platform, supporting voice, video, data and wireless. A managed support service has

been implemented and new reporting functionality provides detailed graphical and statistical analysis.

Firewall Upgrade

The SDCC firewall was upgraded to negotiate connections at 1Gbps and Auto.

Backup WAN Link to GN

A backup WAN link to Government Networks was setup for resilience in the event of failure of the main link so that minimum downtime of internet services can be expected.

2013 – What we are Planning

In 2013, the Information Technology Department will continue to expand SDCC's high performance computing infrastructure to meet the needs of staff and customers. The following are some of the major Information Technology projects planned for 2013:

- Plan, prepare and deliver appropriate IT infrastructure for Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery for the entire organisation.
- Improve and increase wide area network connectivity to remote SDCC sites and depots.
- Migrate all SDCC websites to open source content management solution.
- Upgrade or replacement of the corporate data backup solution.
- Upgrade or replacement of the corporate email system.
- Upgrade or replacement of the corporate desktop application suite.

We will continue to investigate new models for IT service delivery and develop financial models to determine the economic viability of obtaining IT services in new ways, for example Shared Services and Software as a Service models.

We will also continue to improve the products, procedures and policies related to information security and privacy at South Dublin County Council.

Finance

The Finance Department is responsible for the financial operations in the Council and in particular ensures that adequate arrangements are in place to finance revenue and capital activity. Responsibilities include budgeting, financial reporting, treasury and cashflow management, the implementation of a framework of internal controls to minimise financial risk and liaison with external audit.

The range of services provided by Finance include:

- Financial control, cashflow and treasury management
- Preparation of the Annual Budget
- Preparation of the Annual Financial Statement
- Preparation of Quarterly Reports
- Administration of general ledger and main financial systems
- Payroll administration
- Commercial Rates - billing and collection
- Entry Year Property Levy - billing and collection
- Non Principal Private Residence Charge – collection
- Management of Debt Collection
- Management of the purchase to pay process
- Insurance and claims administration
- Cash office operations

The Finance Team

The operational plan for the Finance Department included the following objectives in 2012:

- The timely preparation of the 2011 Annual Financial Statement in the standard format specified by the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government (DECLG) and in accordance with Local Authority Accounting in Ireland, Code of Practice and Accounting Regulations
- To liaise with the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government (DECLG) and provide financial and non-financial information as required
- To monitor, control and report the council's activities in the context of EU and IMF financial requirements and the General Government balance (GGB).

- To prepare the Annual Budget 2013 in accordance with the Local Government Act 2001 and the Local Government (Financial Procedures and Audit) Regulations 2002
- To manage cashflow so that funding is available as required for day to day expenditure on the Revenue and Capital Accounts and investment opportunities are maximised.
- To liaise with the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government (DECLG) when opportune to maximise allocations from the Local Government Fund and other state funds
- To manage, maintain and develop the Agresso Financial Management System

Annual Financial Statement

The Annual Financial Statement 2011 was presented in a web enabled format to the Members at the April 2012 council meeting and subsequently submitted to the Department of the Environment, Community, and Local Government (DECLG). The 2011 audit opinion and report were considered by the members in committee in January 2013 and noted by members at the February 2013 council meeting.

Quarterly Reports

Under the EU and IMF bale out conditions there are additional reporting requirements which were identified in the document 'Ireland Memorandum of Understanding on Specific Economic Policy Conditionality' dated 3 December 2010. Annex One: Provision of Data specifically states that quarterly data on main revenue and expenditure items of local government is to be provided to the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government by all local authorities within 60 days of the quarter end. The reports required are:

- **Revenue Report** which gives details of the revenue account expenditure and income for the year to each quarter end against the year's budget.
- **Capital Report** which gives details of the capital account opening balances, expenditure and income and closing balances for the year to each quarter end.
- **Debtors Report** which gives details of transactions for each category of debtor for the year to each quarter end.
- **Loan Report** which gives a detailed forecast of interest and principal repayments on all existing and approved borrowings.

These reports were all submitted to DECLG within the specified timeframes for the four quarters of 2012.

Publication of Purchase Orders over €20,000

Under the Public Service Reform Plan, every purchase order made by a Government Department or Local Authority must be published quarterly online by the end of 2012, starting with Quarter four 2012. This report was published on the Council's website within the specified timeframe.

Annual Budget

The Annual Budget for 2013 which was prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act, 2001, and the Local Government (Financial Procedures and Audit) Regulations 2002 was adopted by the Council on 17 December, 2012.

Commercial Rates

Income from commercial rates was €122,641,598 for 2012. The total collected during 2012 was €102,920,190 with a further €13,033,679 qualifying for vacancy credits, leaving arrears of €39,940,231 for collection at year end. The 74% collection for this income source in 2012 was consistent with the national trend and reflected the difficult economic climate for business and business dependant incomes.

Entry Year Property Levy (PEL)

The Entry Year Property Levy was introduced under the Local Government (Business Improvement Districts) Act 2006. The levy applies to all new-build properties from the date when the properties are valued for rating purposes, pending the levying of commercial rates.

In this regard, a total of 33 requests for valuations were issued by the Council to the Valuation Office in 2012 in respect of new builds.

Non Principal Private Residence Charge (NPPR)

The Local Government (Charges) Act 2009 introduced a €200 annual charge for Non-Principal Private Residences. The €200 charge is payable to the local authority in whose area the Non-Principal Private Residence is located. The charge is self-assessed and owners are obliged to register the property and pay the charge. The legislation also provides for the imposition of late payment penalties which accumulate monthly once the charge is overdue.

The amount collected in 2012 in respect of the NPPR Charge was €3,366,159. This amount is made up of €2,454,800 in respect of 2012 charges and €911,359 in respect of penalties and charges for prior years.

Household Charge

The Household Charge is an annual charge introduced by the [Local Government \(Charges\) Act 2011](#) which is payable by owners of residential property. It was a matter for owners of residential property to register and pay the Household Charge after 1 January 2012.

The Household Charge is an interim measure and a full property tax will be introduced from 1 July 2013.

By the end of 2012, a total of 52,824 households out of a total of 81,822 which the Central Statistics Office (CSO) estimated were liable in the South Dublin County Council area paid the charge, while 403 waivers were granted. This gave a percentage collection rate of 65.10%. A total of €5,426,861 was collected.

Revenues from the Household Charge supports the provision of local services.

European Communities

(Late Payment in Commercial transactions) Regulations 2002

EU Regulations governing late payment of commercial transactions were enforced with effect from 7 August 2002. These Regulations partially replace the Prompt Payment of Accounts Act 1997 and provide that interest, if greater than €5, be paid where an invoice remains unpaid for more than 30 days. The total amount of interest paid in 2012 was €5,487.95.

From quarter three 2011 all public bodies are required to report on a quarterly basis on their performance in relation to payment of invoices in the following categories: within 15 days of receipt; within 16 to 30 days of receipt and in excess of 30 days of receipt. These reports were submitted to DECLG within the specified timeframes for the four quarters of 2012 and are available on the Council's website.

Revenue Commissioner Report on Payments

The Revenue Commissioners require an annual report under Section 891 (b) of the Taxes Consolidation Act 1997 to be submitted by Public Bodies, including all Local Authorities. The report gives details of all suppliers in receipt of €1,000 or more in 2012.

It excludes payments subject to RCT (Relevant Contracts Tax) or PAYE and some other categories. This annual return was submitted to the Revenue Commissioners within the specified timeframe in 2012.

Appendix 1

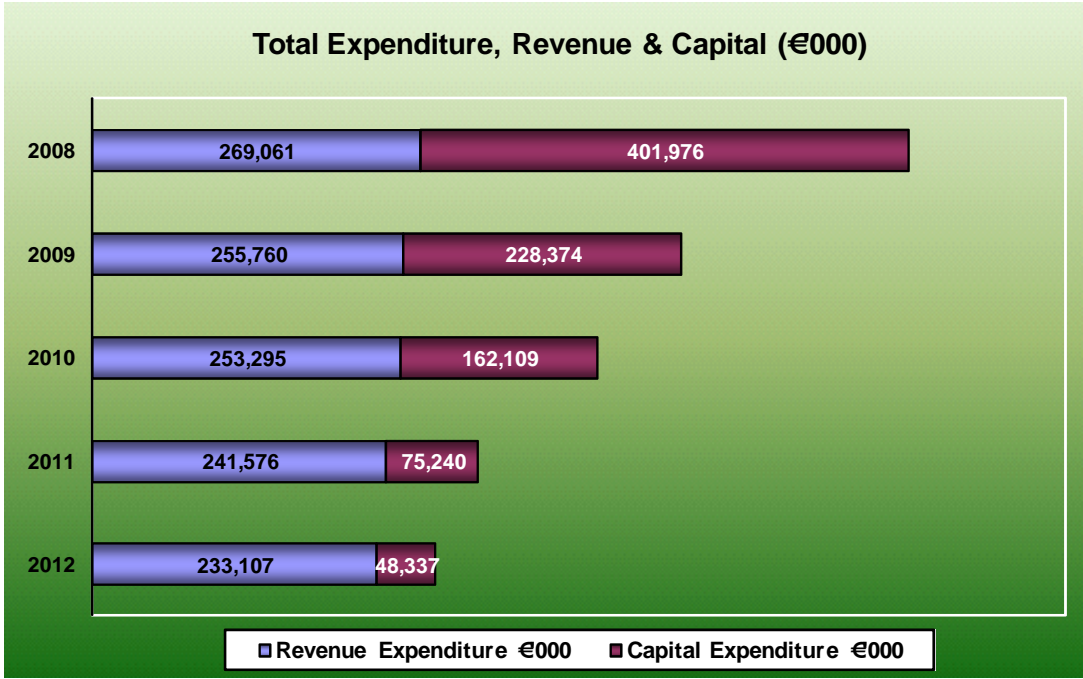
Financial Charts and Graphs

South Dublin County Council Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2012 (Draft)

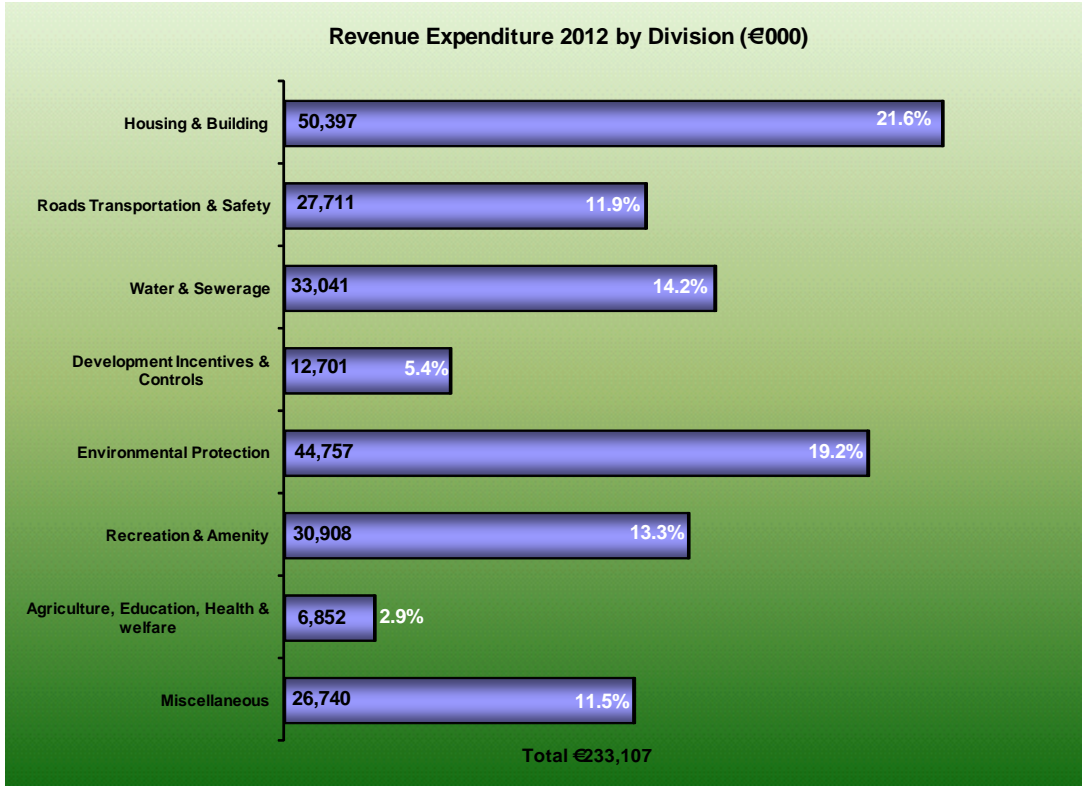
	2012	2011
	€000	€000
Fixed Assets & Work in Progress	3,721,901	3,747,026
Long Term Debtors	204,038	210,291
Net Current Assets	38,657	39,378
Long Term Creditors	<u>(250,601)</u>	<u>(255,034)</u>
Net Assets	<u>3,713,995</u>	<u>3,741,661</u>
<i>Financed by:</i>		
Work in Progress & Capitalisation Account	3,689,762	3,714,865
Revenue Reserve - Specific	10,805	10,805
Revenue Reserve - General	12,095	12,093
Other Balances	<u>1,333</u>	<u>3,898</u>
	<u>3,713,995</u>	<u>3,741,661</u>

**INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT STATEMENT
FOR YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2012 (DRAFT)**

	Gross Expenditure	Income	Net Cost
	2012 €000	2012 €000	2012 €000
Housing & Building	48,215	46,354	(1,861)
Roads Transportation & Safety	26,372	7,994	(18,378)
Water & Sewerage	32,971	7,644	(25,327)
Development Incentives & Controls	12,483	3,004	(9,479)
Environmental Protection	36,622	9,699	(26,923)
Recreation & Amenity	30,059	4,841	(25,218)
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	6,826	5,403	(1,423)
Miscellaneous	25,349	4,393	(20,956)
Total Expenditure/Income	<u>218,897</u>	<u>89,332</u>	
Net cost of programmes to be funded from Rates & Local Government Fund			(129,565)
Rates Income			122,642
Local Government Fund - Grant Income			16,485
Pension Related Deduction			3,353
Net Transfers to/from Reserves			(12,913)
Surplus/(Deficit) for Year			<u>2</u>
General Reserve @ 1st January 2012			120,093
General Reserve @ 31st December 2012			<u>120,095</u>



NOTE: These figures are inclusive of transfers to/from reserves



NOTE: These figures are inclusive of transfers to/from reserves

DRAFT SERVICE INDICATORS* (Awaiting Verified Figures from the Local Government Management Agency)

South Dublin County Council

F: Fire Service - Fire Services are provided by Dublin City Council for the four Local Authorities in the Dublin Area

2012

F.3 Fire Prevention

The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report and in order to compile this information, local authorities should submit the following data:

A. Total number of fire safety certificate applications Received

106

B. Total number of fire safety certificate applications processed (including cases deemed invalid

113

C. Total number of applications deemed invalid

1

CP: COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

CP.1 Participation in local Youth Council/Comhairle na nÓg scheme

The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report:

Percentage of local schools and youth groups involved in the local Youth Council/ Comhairle na nÓg scheme

28.24

CP.2 Groups registered with the Community and Voluntary Forum

The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report and in order to compile this information, local authorities should submit the following data:

Number of groups registered with the Community and Voluntary Forum

765

C: Corporate Issues

C.1 Working Days lost to Sickness

The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report

A. Percentage of working days lost to sickness absence

through certified leave	4.14
B. Percentage of working days lost to sickness absence through uncertified leave	0.72
C.2 Staff Training and Development	
Expenditure on Training and Development as a percentage of total payroll costs	3.28
E: Environmental Services	
Water	
E.1 Unaccounted For Water	
Unaccounted for water (UFW) as a percentage of total volume of water supplied under the water supply schemes that the local authority is responsible for	16.14
E.1a Drinking Water Analysis	
Percentage of drinking water analysis results in compliance with statutory requirements with regard to public schemes	N/A
Waste Management	
E.2 Waste Segregation	
A. Percentage of households who receive a waste collection service and are provided with segregated waste collection for dry recyclables	N/A
B. Percentage of households who receive a waste collection service and are provided with segregated waste collection for organics	N/A
E: Environmental Services	
Waste Management	
E3: Housing Waste Sent for Recycling	
A. Percentage of household waste collected from kerbside, which is sent for recycling	33.33
B. Tonnage of household waste collected from	

banks, civic amenity centres, transfer stations and other recycling facilities)

C. Tonnage of household waste recycled, which arises from waste collected from recycling facilities (i.e. bring banks, civic amenity centres, transfer stations and other recycling facilities

N/A

10084.87

E4: Household Waste Sent for Landfill

The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report

A. The percentage of household waste collected which is sent to landfill

66.67

B. The tonnage of household waste collected which is sent to landfill

1593.92

E5: Recycling Facilities

Glass

A. The number of Bring Sites for recycling

46

B. The number of Civic Amenity Centres for recycling

2

C. The total number of facilities for recycling

48

D. The number of locations for recycling per 5,000 of Population

0.91

Cans

E. The number of Bring Sites for recycling

30

F. The number of Civic Amenity Centres for recycling

2

G. The total number of facilities for recycling

32

H. The number of locations for recycling per 5,000 of Population

0.60

Textiles

I. The number of Bring Sites for recycling	38
J. The number of Civic Amenity Centres for recycling	2
K. The total number of facilities for recycling	40
L. The number of locations for recycling per 5,000 of population	0.75

Batteries

M. The number of Bring Sites for recycling	206
N. The number of Civic Amenity Centres for recycling	2
O. The total number of facilities for recycling	208
P. The number of locations for recycling per 5,000 of Population	3.92

Oils

Q. The number of Bring Sites for recycling	0
R. The number of Civic Amenity Centres for recycling	2
S. The total number of facilities for recycling	2
T. The number of locations for recycling per 5,000 of population	0.04

In order to compile this information, local authorities should submit the following data

E6: Recycling Facilities

The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report

U. The number of Bring Sites for recycling	206
V. The number of Civic Amenity Centres for recycling	2
W. The total number of facilities for recycling	208

X. The number of locations for recycling per 5,000 of Population

3.92

Litter

E7: Litter Prevention and Enforcement

A. Number of full-time litter wardens

6

B. Number of part-time litter wardens

0

C. Number of litter wardens (both full- and part-time) per 5,000 population

0.11

D. Number of on-the-spot fines issued

1165

E. Number of on-the-spot fines paid

414

F. Number of prosecution cases taken because of nonpayment of on-the-spot fines

216

G. Number of prosecutions secured in cases taken because of non-payment of on-the-spot fines

27

H. Number of notices issued (under sections 9, 15, 16, 17 and 20 of the Litter Pollution Act 1997)

198

I. Total number of prosecutions taken (all prosecutions under the Litter Acts 1997 to 2003)

252

J. Total number of prosecutions secured (all prosecutions under the Litter Acts 1997 to 2003)

63

K. Percentage of areas in the local authority that are unpolluted (i.e. litter-free)

N/A

L. Percentage of areas in the local authority that are slightly polluted with litter

N/A

M. Percentage of areas in the local authority that are moderately polluted with litter

N/A

N. Percentage of areas in the local authority that are significantly polluted with litter

N/A

O. Percentage of areas in the local authority that are grossly polluted with litter

N/A

E8: Environmental Complaints and Enforcement

A. Total number of cases subject to complaints concerning environmental pollution (relating to waste, litter, water pollution, noise pollution, air pollution)

2542

B. Number of complaints investigated

2528

C. Number of complaints resolved where no further action was necessary

1746

D. Number of enforcement procedures taken

1618

E9: Percentage of schools participating in environmental campaigns

A. Percentage of primary schools participating in environmental campaigns

92.00

B. Percentage of secondary schools participating in environmental campaigns

88.57

H: Housing

H1: Housing Vacancies

A. The total number of dwellings in local authority stock

9125

B. The total number of dwellings, excluding those subject to major refurbishment projects

9119.25

C. The overall percentage of dwellings that are empty (excluding those subject to major refurbishment projects)

0.64

D. The percentage of empty dwellings unavailable for letting

90.56

E- The percentage of empty dwellings available for letting

9.44

H2: Average Time Taken to Re-let Available Dwellings

The average time taken in weeks from the date of vacation of dwelling to the date when all

11.41

the necessary repairs are carried out which are deemed necessary to re-let the dwelling

The average time taken (in weeks) from the works (above) being completed to the date of the first rent debit

1.86

H3: Housing Repairs

Number of repairs completed as a percentage of the number of valid repair requests received

94.13

H4: Traveller Accommodation

Total number of Traveller families accommodated as a percentage of the targets set in the local Traveller accommodation programme

106.67

H5: Enforcement of standards in the private rented sector

A. Total number of registered tenancies

9513

B. Number of dwelling units inspected

880

C. Number of inspections carried out

1087

D. Number of dwellings inspected as percentage of registered tenancies (i.e. B as percentage of A)

9.25

H6: Grants to adapt housing for the needs of disabled people

A. Average time taken (in weeks) to process applications under the Mobility Aids Grant Scheme, including any necessary inspection(s) from the date of the receipt of a valid application to the date of a decision on the application

7.71

B. Average time taken (in weeks) to process applications under Housing Adaptation Grant for People with a Disability, including any necessary inspection(s) from the date of the receipt of a valid application to the date of a decision on the application

13.77

H7: Pre-Tenancy Familiarisation Courses

A. Total number of new local authority tenants

283

B. Percentage of new local authority tenants who have been offered pre-tenancy familiarisation courses

17.31

L: Library Services

L.1 Library Public Opening Hours

A. Average number of opening hours per week for fulltime Libraries

41.29

B. Average number of opening hours per week for part - time libraries (where applicable)

0

C. Percentage of full time libraries that have lunchtime Openings

62.5

D. Percentage of full time libraries that have evening Openings

62.5

E. Percentage of full time libraries that have Saturday Openings

62.5

L.2 Library Visits

Number of visits to full time libraries per 1,000 Population

4229.86

L.3 Library Stock

The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report

A. Annual expenditure on stock per head of population (county/city wide)

3.30

B. Number of items issued per head of population (county/city wide) for books

2.99

C. Number of items issued per head of population

(county/city wide) for other items

1.35

L.4 Internet Access through Libraries

The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report

Number of Internet sessions provided per 1,000
Population

902.91

In order to compile this information, local authorities should submit the following data

Total number of Internet sessions provided

239429

M: Motor Taxation - Motor Tax services are provided by Dublin City Council for
the four Local Authorities in the Dublin Area

P: Planning

P.1 Planning Applications - Decision Making

Individual Houses

A. Number of applications decided

37

B. Number of decisions in Column A which were
decided within 8 weeks

23

C. Number of decisions in Column A which required
the submission of further information

14

D. Number of decisions in Column A where an
extension of time was agreed to by the applicant,
under section 34(9) of the Planning and development
Act 2000

0

E. Average length of time taken (in days) to decide an
application where further information was sought

78.21

F. Percentage of applications granted

70.27

G. Percentage of applications refused

29.73

H. Percentage of cases where the decision was
confirmed, with or without variations, by An Bord Pleanala

87.50

I. Percentage of cases where the decision was
reversed by An Bord Pleanala

12.50

**P.1 Planning Applications - Decision Making
NEW HOUSING DEVELOPMENT**

The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report

A. Number of applications decided	10
B. Number of decisions in Column A which were decided within 8 weeks	6
C. Number of decisions in Column A which required the submission of further information	4
D. Number of decisions in Column A where an extension of time was agreed to by the applicant, under section 34(9) of the Planning and development Act 2000	0
E. Average length of time taken (in days) to decide an application where further information was sought	79
F. Percentage of applications granted	100
G. Percentage of applications refused	0
H. Percentage of cases where the decision was confirmed, with or without variations, by An Bord Pleanala	75.00
I. Percentage of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanala	25.00

**P.1 Planning Applications - Decision Making
Other: not requiring Environment Impact Assessment**

The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report:

A. Number of applications decided	506
B. Number of decisions in Column A which were decided within 8 weeks	411
C. Number of decisions in Column A which required the submission of further information	95
D. Number of decisions in Column A where an extension of time was agreed to by the applicant, under section 34(9) of the Planning and development Act 2000	0

E. Average length of time taken (in days) to decide an application where further information was sought	75.06
F. Percentage of applications granted	92.09
G. Percentage of applications refused	7.91
H. Percentage of cases where the decision was confirmed, with or without variations, by An Bord Pleanala	81.08
I. Percentage of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanala	18.92

**P.1 Planning Applications - Decision Making
Other: requiring Environment Impact Assessment**

The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report:

A. Number of applications decided	1
B. Number of decisions in Column A which were decided within 8 weeks	1
C. Number of decisions in Column A which required the submission of further information	0
D. Number of decisions in Column A where an extension of time was agreed to by the applicant, under section 34(9) of the Planning and development Act 2000	0
E. Average length of time taken (in days) to decide an application where further information was sought	0
F. Percentage of applications granted	100
G. Percentage of applications refused	0
H. Percentage of cases where the decision was confirmed, with or without variations, by An Bord Pleanala	0
I. Percentage of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanala	0

P.2 Planning Enforcement

The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report and in order to compile this information local authorities should submit the following data

A. Total number of cases subject to complaints that were investigated

263

B. Total number of cases subject to complaints that were dismissed

116

C. Total number of cases subject to complaints that were resolved through negotiations

104

D. Number of enforcement procedures taken through warning letters

253

E. Number of enforcement procedures taken through enforcement notices

128

F. Number of prosecutions

14

P.3 Planning Public opening hours

The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report and in order to compile this information, local authorities should submit the following data:

Average number of opening hours per week

33.65

P.4 Pre-Planning Consultation

The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report and in order to compile this information, local authorities should submit the following data:

A. Number of pre-planning consultation meetings held

222

B. Average length of time (in days) from request for consultation with local authority to actual formal meeting for pre-planning consultation

14

P.5 New Buildings inspected

The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report

Buildings inspected as a percentage of new buildings notified to the local authority

16.25

P.6 Taking Estates in Charge

The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report:

A- The number of residential estates for which the planning permission has expired, in respect of which formal written requests for taking in charge (from residents or developers), were on hands at the beginning of the year

20

B- Number of estates that were taken in charge in the year in question

8

C- Number of dwellings in respect of column B

1259

D- Percentage of estates in were request was made to be taken in charge not completed to satisfaction of the planning authority in line with the planning permission

45.00

E- Number of estates in column D in respect of which enforcement action was taken in the year in question and/or the bond was called in

8

F- Number of estates in column D in respect of which works were undertaken by the authority to bring the estate to taking in charge standard

0

Recreational Services

Rec.1 Children's Playgrounds

The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report

A. Number of children's playgrounds per 1,000 population directly provided by the local authority

0.06

B. Number of children's playgrounds per 1,000 population facilitated by the local authority

0

Rec.2 Local Authority-Facilitated Leisure Facilities

The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report

Number of visitors to local authority-facilitated leisure facilities per 1,000 population

1964.34

Revenue Collection

Rev.1 House Rent

The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report

A. Amount collected at year end as a percentage of amount due from House Rent

71.13

B. Percentage of arrears on House Rent that are 4-6 weeks old

1.34

C. Percentage of arrears on House Rent that are 6-12 weeks old

4.87

D. Percentage of arrears on House Rent that are more than 12 weeks old

92.21

Rev.2 Housing Loans

A. Amount collected at year end as a percentage of amount due from Housing Loans

90.57

B. Percentage of arrears on Housing Loans that are 1 month old

4.05

C. Percentage of arrears on Housing Loans that are 2-3 months old

7.85

D. Percentage of arrears on Housing Loans that are more than 3 months old

83.28

Rev.3 Commercial Rates

The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report and in order to compile this information, local authorities should submit the following data

Amount collected at year-end as a percentage of amount due from Commercial rates

74.3

Rev.4 Refuse Charges

The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report and in order to compile this information, local authorities should submit the following data

Percentage of households paying refuse charges including waivers at year end

N/A

Rev.5 Non-Domestic Water Charges

The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report and in order to compile this information, local authorities should submit the following data:

Amount collected at year end as a percentage of amount due for Non-Domestic Water Charges

52

R: Roads

R1: Roads Restoration Programme

The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report and in order to compile this information, local authorities should submit the following data

Number of kilometres of local and regional roads improved and maintained under the Restoration Programme per annum

18.61

Number of kilometres of local and regional roads constructed under the specific improvement grants

0



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