

SDCC

Comhairle Contae
Átha Cliath Theas

South Dublin
County Council

Chief Executive's Report

How we're
creating greater
opportunity for
all

March 2026



Launch of Economic Strategy



About the Chief Executive's Report

The Chief Executive's Report is presented to elected members at each SDCC monthly meeting. It forms a key part of our governance and oversight framework, supporting members in their role by providing timely updates on the work of the Council.

In line with Section 136(2) of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended by the Local Government Reform Act 2014), the report outlines the performance of executive functions, the implementation of Council policy, and the delivery of services across the organisation.

This report should be read alongside updates provided to Area Committee Meetings and the quarterly Capital Progress Report, which together offer a comprehensive view of Council activity and progress.

Each edition includes:

- Updates on how we are delivering on our Corporate Plan goals
- Highlights of major initiatives and events
- A visual snapshot of recent community and Council activities

The report also provides an opportunity to shine a light on areas of our work that may not always be in the spotlight but are vital to the day-to-day life of the county.

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Climate Leadership

Living with trees

“Living with Trees” is SDCC’s core policy guiding the care and management of publicly owned trees. The policy sets out our commitment to managing tree stock responsibly for the benefit of both current and future generations, while clearly explaining the principles behind our decisions.

Over the past five years, €19 million has been invested in tree management and planting initiatives. This investment, supported by established policy frameworks, has enabled the 64,658 trees to be surveyed with 38,815 pruned and 10,966 new trees planted across the county. In addition, 32,755 native whips have been planted through our mini-woodlands programme.

As our previous tree management policy approached the end of its term, a review and renewal process was undertaken to reflect learning from recent years and to incorporate input from the public and elected members. Following a comprehensive review, a non-statutory public consultation and presentations to key stakeholders, the updated “Living with Trees” policy for 2026–2031 was

presented to the full council for noting in February. With this step, the previous policy was formally replaced, ensuring a clear and up-to-date framework to guide tree management and decision-making through to 2031.

The updated policy incorporates several important considerations, particularly in relation to issues such as planting and public engagement, resulting in measures to support more refined tree species selection within the urban environment and strengthening public education and awareness programmes. Also of particular note is the updated section of the policy addressing conflict between trees and both the built environment and solar panels. This provides greater discretion when managing complex and potentially contentious issues, while continuing to balance environmental protection with practical considerations.

We welcome the renewal of this policy and look forward to its application over the next five years, confident that “Living with Trees” will continue to play a central role in shaping how we protect, manage and expand our tree network.

Energy Cloud launches in South Dublin

A new partnership is under way to help tackle fuel poverty while supporting ambitious climate action goals. SDCC has partnered with Energy Cloud, an innovative social enterprise that uses surplus renewable energy to support households that need it most.

Across Ireland, wind farms can generate more electricity than the national grid can accommodate at certain times. When this happens, clean renewable energy is often switched off and wasted. Energy Cloud uses smart technology to redirect this surplus energy, at no cost, to heat hot water tanks in social housing. This approach turns an energy system challenge into a practical solution that delivers real social and environmental benefits.

Work is progressing at pace to bring this technology to residents. The initial phase of delivery is scheduled to begin in the coming weeks and will focus on homes in Dunawley, within the Clondalkin decarbonising zone. At the same time, Energy Cloud technology will also be introduced as part of our standard relet process for social housing. This means that new tenants moving into refurbished council homes will benefit from free hot water from the day they receive their keys, forming a key part of our commitment to a just transition, ensuring that the move towards cleaner energy directly supports households most at risk

of energy poverty.

Our Climate Action and Housing teams are actively developing opportunities for a wider rollout in collaboration with external partners, with the aim of expanding the reach and impact of the project.

By scaling this initiative, we are taking another step forward in reducing energy waste, embracing innovative technology and supporting the wellbeing of communities across the county.



Climate Leadership

Knocklyon to Ballyboden Active and Sustainable Travel Scheme Part 8

Part 8 public consultation is now under way for the proposed Knocklyon to Ballyboden Active and Sustainable Travel Scheme, which aims to improve walking, cycling and public transport infrastructure along a key route in the area. We have prepared a short video for inform consultation outlining the proposals, which is available to view on our YouTube channel at <https://youtu.be/uU7ktaJ1yQO>. The proposed scheme covers a broad area including Firhouse Road, Knocklyon Road and the surrounding school environments at Gaelscoil Chnoc Liamhna, Idrone Avenue near St. Colmcille's Junior and Senior National Schools, Dargle Wood Park, Templeroan Road at Sancta Maria College, Ballyboden Way, Boden Park, Ballyboden Road and Scholarstown Road.

This area is currently served by low-quality walking and cycling infrastructure, with unsafe crossings at roundabouts, high vehicle speeds along wide roads, large corner radii and delays to bus services, particularly on Ballyboden Way. There is also a high concentration of vulnerable road users due to the number of schools, community facilities and local services along the route.

The scheme focuses on improving the public realm and creating a safer, more attractive environment for residents through traffic calming measures and neighbourhood enhancements, while also

delivering high-quality walking, cycling and public transport infrastructure. Reducing road widths, as referenced in the Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets, is recognised as one of the most effective ways to reduce vehicle speeds. The proposals include reduced carriageway widths, new planting and trees, and public realm interventions designed to enhance the character of the area.

Approximately four kilometres of main route improvements are proposed, including segregated cycle lanes with kerb protection along most of the scheme. Existing shared surfaces will be retained where appropriate, with upgrades planned for Knocklyon Road outside the shopping centre and through Dargle Wood Park. In addition, more than 1.5 kilometres of secondary link improvements are proposed along residential streets. These include smaller-scale interventions such as the removal of kissing gates, raised entry treatments with continuous footpaths at side roads, new permeability links, additional tree and grass planting, and safe routes to school measures, all of which will be subject of further detailed design work if the overall scheme is approved.

The public consultation is being carried out in accordance with Part VIII, Article 81 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended. Drawings, supporting information and details on

how to make a submission are available on our consultation and members of the public are also encouraged to share their views by completing the scheme survey at [https://consult.sdublincoco.ie/en/content/knocklyon-ballyboden-active-](https://consult.sdublincoco.ie/en/content/knocklyon-ballyboden-active-and-sustainable-travel-scheme)

[and-sustainable-travel-scheme](#) The public consultation opened on 30 January and will close for submissions at 5pm on 13 March.

Celebrating World Water Day on 22 March

World Water Day on 22 March is an opportunity to highlight the importance of protecting our rivers and streams and to raise awareness of how everyday actions can impact water quality. Our Natural Water Quality team plays a key role in this work, carrying out monthly monitoring and testing of local rivers and investigating all reports of water pollution.

Water pollution can often occur when waste is disposed of into road gullies, either intentionally or by accident. Substances such as grease, oil, paint and other household materials washed into gullies are carried through the surface water pipe network and discharged directly into nearby rivers. These pollution events can cause serious harm to aquatic life and damage river ecosystems.

To help raise awareness of this issue, we are launching a "River Starts Here" sticker campaign. The campaign highlights the direct connection between road gullies and rivers and reinforces the message that whatever goes down a gully ends up in our waterways. By making this connection visible, the campaign aims

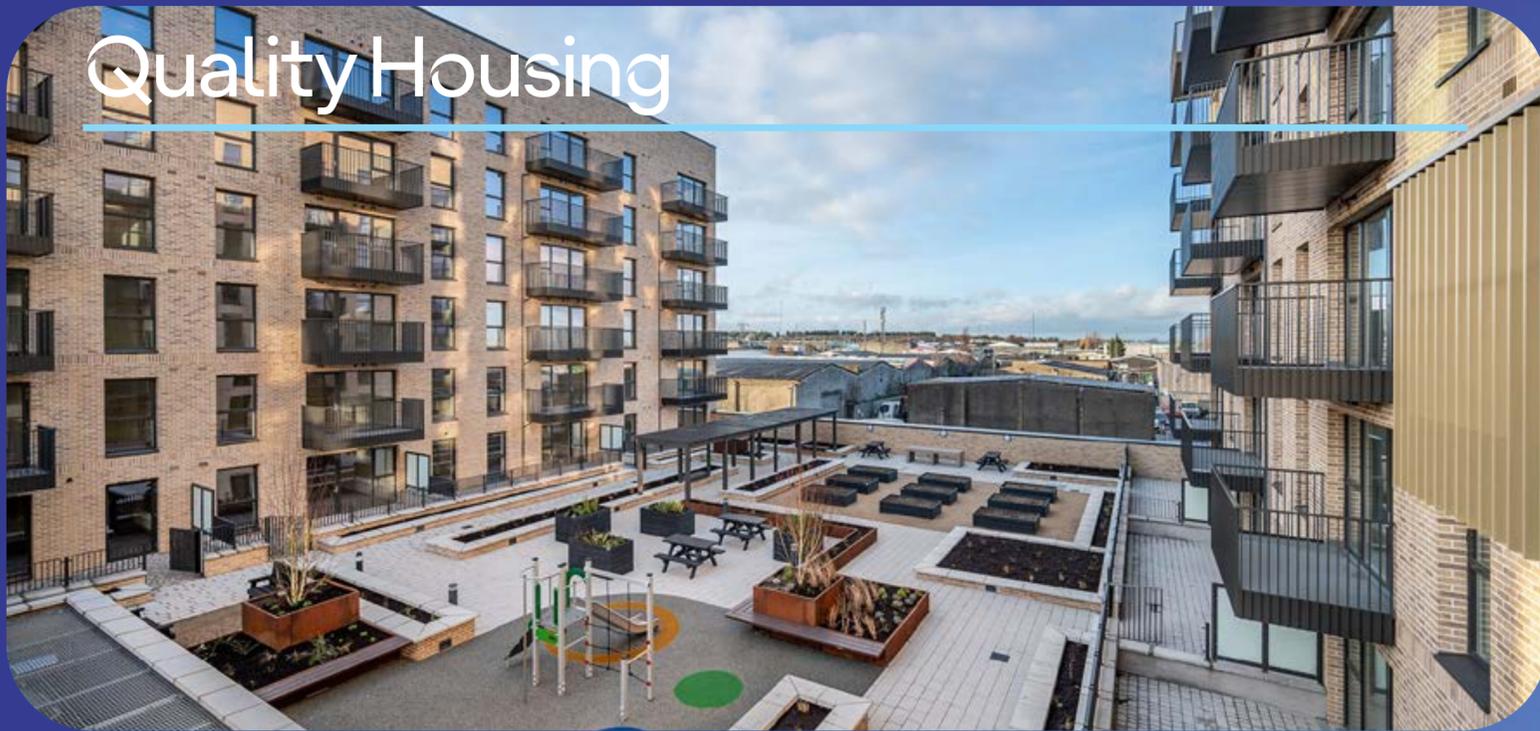
to encourage more responsible waste disposal and reduce pollution incidents.

An engagement and awareness programme has been developed for local schools and community groups to support the campaign. Through these sessions, students will learn about the causes and impacts of water pollution and will be invited to take part by placing stickers on gullies in their local areas. This hands-on approach helps build understanding while empowering young people to play an active role in protecting their environment.

Community groups with a strong interest in local rivers, including Dodder Action and Friends of the Camac, will also be supported through the campaign. Stickers will be provided for use in areas where pollution is suspected, helping to reinforce awareness at locations where it can make the greatest difference.

This campaign aims to help change attitudes and behaviours resulting in less pollution events to our rivers, and improved water quality.

Quality Housing



Using modern methods of construction for housing delivery

Modern methods of construction, often referred to as MMC, describe innovative building techniques that improve efficiency, quality and sustainability when compared with traditional construction methods such as masonry or in-situ concrete. MMC approaches include off-site manufacturing, two-dimensional panelised systems, modular and volumetric construction, and the use of prefabricated components with several examples of MMC delivery models being used as part of our long-standing commitment to innovation and efficiency in housing projects. These include:

- Insulated concrete formwork in housing developments at St Mark's & Templeogue Village,
- Use of light gauge steel frame at Watercourse Grove
- Off-site pre-fabricated timber frame

homes for the currently in progress age friendly development at Deansrath-Melrose

- Volumetric service pods, pre-cast brick-clad concrete structural facades and pre-fabricated balconies all being part of our Innovation Square cost rental development, and
- High-performance fiber-reinforced cementitious composites (modular concrete) at another age friendly development at Alpine Heights.

In particular, the Deansrath-Melrose project, which is a partnership with Coillte, demonstrates further innovation in housing delivery as the first social housing scheme in the State to be constructed using entirely domestically grown, off-site fabricated timber frame. This approach offers significant potential to reduce embodied carbon and supports

wider climate action objectives.

When combined with the design and build procurement model, MMC can deliver programme efficiencies compared with conventional construction. Additional benefits include reduced design and procurement workloads for the contracting authority, lower levels of construction waste, improved quality

control, fewer defects and reduced disruption to surrounding communities, due to a higher proportion of work taking place off site and we will continue to examine further opportunities for MMC use in housing delivery as part of the national housing policy requirement for MMC use for at least 25% of all State-backed housing



ICF age friendly homes at Templeogue Village



Light gauge steel frame in Knocklyon



Timber frame in Deansrath

Quality Housing



development is designed to support both first-time buyers and growing families, combining a strong sense of community with convenient access to local services and transport links.

The development is located within walking distance of Clondalkin Village and adjacent to the Grand Canal greenway, providing safe and attractive routes for walking, running and cycling. A wide range of amenities are also available nearby, including schools, shops, cafés, restaurants, sports clubs and community facilities.

Homes at Keepers Lock have been designed with a focus on contemporary living and energy efficiency. Each property offers well-planned accommodation with an emphasis on space, quality and long-term sustainability.

In partnership with Kelland Homes, SDCC

is making 25 newly constructed homes available for sale under the Affordable Dwelling Purchase Agreement. This scheme supports eligible purchasers by bridging the gap between their maximum mortgage capacity and the market value of the property. Subject to certain exceptions, the homes are being made available to first-time buyers.

Homes available under this scheme include two- bedroom houses and apartments as well as three-bedroom duplexes and houses with relevant purchase information as follows:

The application portal for this scheme will open in the coming weeks and further information on the application process and eligibility criteria are available at <https://www.sdcc.ie/en/services/housing/affordable-homes/>.

Affordable Homes at Keepers Lock, Clonburriss

A new affordable purchase scheme at Keepers Lock in Clonburriss provides an opportunity for eligible purchasers to buy a newly built home within this emerging and well-connected community.

Keepers Lock is a vibrant new neighbourhood offering a mix of two, three-and four-bedroom houses, apartments and duplexes. The

Property Type	No. of homes	Market Value (from)	Prices from	Reduction on Market Value	Household Income Limit*
2-bedroom apartment (ground floor)	8	€385,000	€285,000	26%	€82,294
2-bedroom house	3	€435,000	€335,000	22%	€92,981
3-bedroom duplex	8	€435,000	€335,000	22%	€92,981
3-bedroom house (mid-terrace)	6	€475,000	€375,000	25%	€101,531

Quality Housing



Planning and Development Act 2024 – recent sections enacted

The Planning and Development Act 2024 is being implemented in four phases (Blocks A–D) from early 2025 through 2026, aimed at streamlining Ireland’s planning system to speed up housing delivery, improve consistency, and reduce legal delays. Key changes include the establishment of An Coimisiún Pleanála (formerly An Bord Pleanála) and reformed judicial reviews along with updates to development plans and consent processes.

The published implementation plan for the legislation, which is available on the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage website, structures the legislation into four blocks and Blocks A and B have now been commenced, either fully or in part, with additional provisions relating to plans, policies and related matters coming into effect on 1 January 2026.

The transition from An Bord Pleanála to An Coimisiún Pleanála is now embedded along with the establishment of urban development zones, and the introduction of national planning statements to replace section 28 guidelines. The Act also extends development plan periods from six to ten years, with a requirement for mid-term reviews, and introduces changes to the judicial review process. Further reforms include a shift away from local area plans, with area-based planning now provided through urban area plans and priority area plans. Under the new framework, there is no longer provision for the making of new local area plans or strategic development zones.

Commencement dates for blocks C and D, which relate primarily to development consents, have not yet been determined, but we will provide further updates as more information becomes available.

Part 8 proposal for social and affordable housing at Castlefield

A new mixed-tenure social and affordable housing development at Castlefield Avenue, Old Knocklyon Road, Dublin 16 is proposed with a public consultation . SDCC is advancing the proposal through the Part 8 planning process, with details published in local media and on our consultation portal on 5 March.

The proposed development is for 29 new homes on a site of approximately 0.8 hectares and includes a mix of one-, two- and three-bedroom apartments and houses. It has been designed to deliver a balanced tenure mix in line with our housing objectives and includes a mix of affordable homes that will be available for purchase and rental along with homes for households on our social housing waiting list. In addition, nine of the apartments feature universal design principles, supporting accessibility and adaptability for residents over time.

The Castlefield site is one with a complex history of proposals and the current plan represents a revised and refined scheme reflecting further design

development and technical assessment.

As part of the preparatory work for the Part 8 consultation, a range of site-specific assessments has been undertaken, including flood risk and detailed ecological studies, to ensure the proposal is appropriate and sustainable, all of which will be addressed in a final report from from the chief executive on the proposed development that will be presented to our elected members when they are required to determine the planning application following the public consultation period.

Ahead of the formal publication of the Part 8 proposal, we engaged with residents adjoining the site to provide information on the proposed development and to outline the next stages of the process.

This proposal forms part of our ongoing housing delivery action plan to increase the supply of high-quality social and affordable housing and to maximise the use of publicly owned land to meet local housing needs.



Quality Housing



Housing Welfare Team supporting tenants

Our Housing Welfare Team plays an important role in supporting tenants who are experiencing difficulties that put their tenancy at risk. The team's work is grounded in fairness, advocacy and empowerment, ensuring tenants receive respectful and practical support when they need it most.

Many households face challenges that make it difficult to manage their tenancy, including rent arrears or personal circumstances that affect day-to-day living. Such challenges can include mental health difficulties, cognitive or behavioural issues, addiction, domestic violence, isolation, poverty or the impact of past trauma. In many cases, tenants experience a combination of these issues, increasing the risk of tenancy breakdown.

The team works directly with tenants to help them understand and meet the responsibilities of their tenancy

agreement. At the same time, they focus on identifying underlying issues and connecting tenants with appropriate professional and community services that can provide longer-term support.

Where additional practical assistance is required, tenants may be referred to the Visiting Tenancy Support Service. This service provides in-home support and can remain involved for up to one year, offering structured, consistent assistance to help tenants maintain their tenancy and address everyday challenges.

Through early intervention, skilled casework and strong links with support services, the Housing Welfare Team helps tenants to sustain secure housing while improving stability and wellbeing.

To contact the team, please email dutysocialworker@sdblincoco.ie.

Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant supporting homes back into use

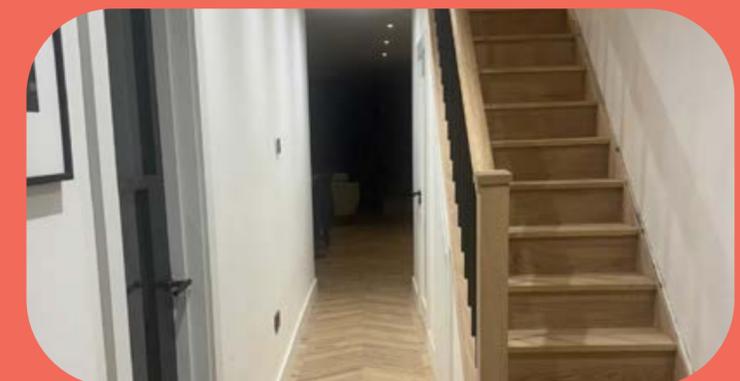
The Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant which provides financial support to refurbish vacant properties and bring them back into use as a principal private residence or as a rental home is proving to be very successful in bringing private homes back into use following long periods of vacancy. To date, we have received 283 applications under the scheme to support the refurbishment of vacant and derelict properties with grant payments made to 105 eligible applicants, helping to return homes to active use and support housing supply. The images below show examples of refurbishment works that have been completed on vacant properties within South Dublin.

A grant of up to €50,000 is available for eligible refurbishment works on properties that have been vacant for at least two years at the time of application. An additional derelict top-up grant of up to €20,000 is also available for properties that are confirmed as derelict or structurally unsound and dangerous. This enhanced support recognises the higher costs often associated with bringing long-term vacant

or derelict buildings back into use.

The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) also recently announced expansion of the scheme to include a support package of up to €140,000 for “above the shop” accommodation. This new measure will support refurbishment of vacant space above shops in cities, towns and villages, allowing these spaces to be brought back into use as homes and full details of this expanded support will be circulated as soon as it is available.

In addition to the grants and schemes available to bring properties back into use and as part of our commitment to addressing vacancy and dereliction we encourage reporting of potentially vacant or derelict properties to our Vacant Homes Officer at vhu@sdblincoco.ie or through the DHLGH's [website](#). All reported properties will be inspected and, where confirmed as vacant, information on the supports available to bring them back into use will be provided to the registered owner.



A Thriving Economy

Strong client progression from LEO to Enterprise Ireland

Ten high-potential businesses supported by our Local Enterprise Office (LEO) team made the transition to Enterprise Ireland last year, demonstrating the quality and potential of South Dublin's entrepreneurial ecosystem. Our LEO supports this progression pathway by helping ambitious businesses to start, grow and scale.

The businesses transferring during the year included Open Forest Ltd, Weighless Wonders Limited, Wyldsson Limited, Nexus Inclusion, Reverist Limited, NUA Medical, The Menopal and Parcel Planet, with additional clients completing the transition later in the year. Together, these companies reflect both the diversity and quality of enterprises emerging from South Dublin. This level of transition highlights the strength of early-stage supports provided through LEO and demonstrates how targeted mentoring, funding and development programmes can help companies reach their full potential.

A notable feature of the 2025 transitions was the strong representation from the technology sector. This trend highlights the growing concentration of innovative and scalable technology businesses in the area and reinforces the importance of investment in enterprise infrastructure. In particular, it reflects the value of initiatives such as the Work IQ Innovation

Centre in providing high-quality space, mentoring and tailored supports for companies at different stages of growth. The progression pathway from LEO to Enterprise Ireland clearly demonstrates sustained demand for these supports.

Alongside technology, businesses operating in medical devices and food production also featured strongly. The progression of NUA Medical illustrates how early-stage employment grants and targeted training can help companies establish a strong foundation before entering international markets.

Michael Sullivan of NUA Medical noted that LEO was "very supportive in the very early days", adding that the company is now exporting to five countries through its distributor network, with a patent-pending therapeutic medical mattress due to launch later this year. The creative and content production sector was also represented through Reverist Limited, a company specialising in unscripted formats and virtual production.

This transition builds on earlier success stories supported by LEO South Dublin, such as High Res Lighting, and points to the growing importance of the screen and creative industries in the region. It also aligns with major

forthcoming developments, including 12th Lock Studios and Lens Media's multi-million-euro investment in Grange Castle, which signal strong future potential for this sector in South Dublin.

Founder feedback further highlights the impact of LEO support. Caraldine Nolan of Weighless Wonders Limited emphasised the importance of backing received through programmes such as Priming, TAME and Green Start, which supported the development and expansion of NutraVerse in Ireland and internationally. She noted that, "As a

female founder in tech, their belief in NutraVerse, my ambition and my dream has meant everything."

Stuart Connolly of Open Forest Ltd also highlighted the importance of early support, explaining that LEO assistance was critical during the company's initial development. He said the support helped the business validate its compliance technology platform and build its first team, while funding allowed the company to demonstrate product-market fit with micro-companies before scaling.



Michael Sullivan, Founder and CEO, Nua Medical



Victoria Finlay Founder of The Menopal

A Thriving Economy

Since transitioning to Enterprise Ireland, (cntd.) Open Forest has continued to grow rapidly, achieving 70 per cent month-on-month revenue growth and expanding its services across Ireland and the United Kingdom. He described the transition process as smooth and reflective of the company's rapid evolution from start-up to scale-up.

These transitions provide clear evidence of a strong and effective enterprise pathway in South Dublin, from idea generation and early validation through to national and international growth.

They also underline the importance of continued investment in enterprise supports, infrastructure and innovation spaces, ensuring that local businesses can start, grow and succeed within South Dublin before competing on a global stage.



New outdoor advertising partnership agreed

SDCC has entered into a new 15-year agreement with JCDecaux for development of a digital advertising network, marking an important step in the evolution of outdoor advertising and civic communication across South Dublin.

The contract was awarded following a competitive procurement process, with JCDecaux selected based on their proven experience in delivering modern and environmentally conscious advertising solutions that enhance public spaces.

The partnership will introduce a network of contemporary digital advertising displays designed to improve the visual quality and usability of streets and shared public areas. Alongside commercial advertising, the new network will provide dedicated digital space for public information, supporting clearer and more effective communication with residents,

visitors and local organisations.

By integrating advanced digital technology into the public realm, the project aims to strike a balance between supporting economic activity and delivering community-focused messaging. The approach reflects a wider commitment to innovation, sustainability and improved engagement with the public.

The rollout will be phased across the county, with regular updates provided to councillors, key stakeholders and the public as the programme progresses. Installation of the new digital advertising structures will be subject to securing Part 8 planning approval, with location proposals to be brought through public consultation and to our elected members for determination later this year.



A Thriving Economy

Oifig Fiontar Áitiúil
Local Enterprise Office

Áth Cliath Theas
South Dublin



Celebrating Entrepreneurial Success at Local Enterprise Awards

South Dublin Local Enterprise Office (LEO) celebrated the outstanding achievements and entrepreneurial spirit of local businesses at the Local Enterprise Awards South Dublin 2026 which took place at The Maldron Hotel, Tallaght on Thursday, 5 March.

Hosted by Noel Davidson of The Entrepreneurs Academy, the event drew an audience of 57 shortlisted businesses, accompanied by their colleagues, family, and friends.

The proceedings commenced with an

official opening address by Mayor of South Dublin Pamela Kearns, followed by Peter Connolly, Head of LEO South Dublin, who both highlighted the pivotal role of entrepreneurship within the county.

The awards recognised nine category winners:

- One to Watch: Nexus Inclusion - Kyran O'Mahony
- Creative Economy (Scene): Mimink Studios - Miriam Cassidy
- NEWS - Female Entrepreneur of the

- Year: Dr. Torun's Clinic - Dr. Elif Torun
- Tech / Innovation: Technotraining Ltd - Aisling Milton & Derek Waters
- Green Award: Forager - Fiona Foran
- Entrepreneurial Spirit: TheCleaningCompany.ie - Luke Joyce
- Food & Drink: Kahuna Pops - Ian Downes
- Export: Swifter - James Madden & Nadia Power
- Start-up: Tutor Growth Limited (Dublin Maths) - Sean Langan
- Each category winner was awarded €1,000.

The Overall winner was Áine Kennedy of The Smooth Company who collected a €5,000 prize and she will go on to represent LEO South Dublin in the National LEO Awards, taking place in June.

Addressing the audience, Peter Connolly remarked. "These awards highlight the incredible entrepreneurial talent we have here in South Dublin. I commend all the winners, shortlisted businesses, and everyone who entered for the important contribution they make to our local economy."

Celebrating entrepreneurship and innovation, the annual Local Enterprise Awards South Dublin 2026 showcase the vibrant enterprise landscape and the diverse talent and variety of business start-ups in the county. These awards serve as a platform to showcase, support and promote the spirit of enterprise both locally and nationally attracted an exceptional level of interest this year, with a record number of applications received.



Female Entrepreneur of the Year: Dr. Torun's Clinic - Dr. Elif Torun

Green Award: Forager - Fiona Foran



Tech / Innovation: Technotraining Ltd - Aisling Milton & Derek Waters



Export: Swifter - James Madden & Nadia Power



Entrepreneurial Spirit: TheCleaningCompany.ie - Luke Joyce



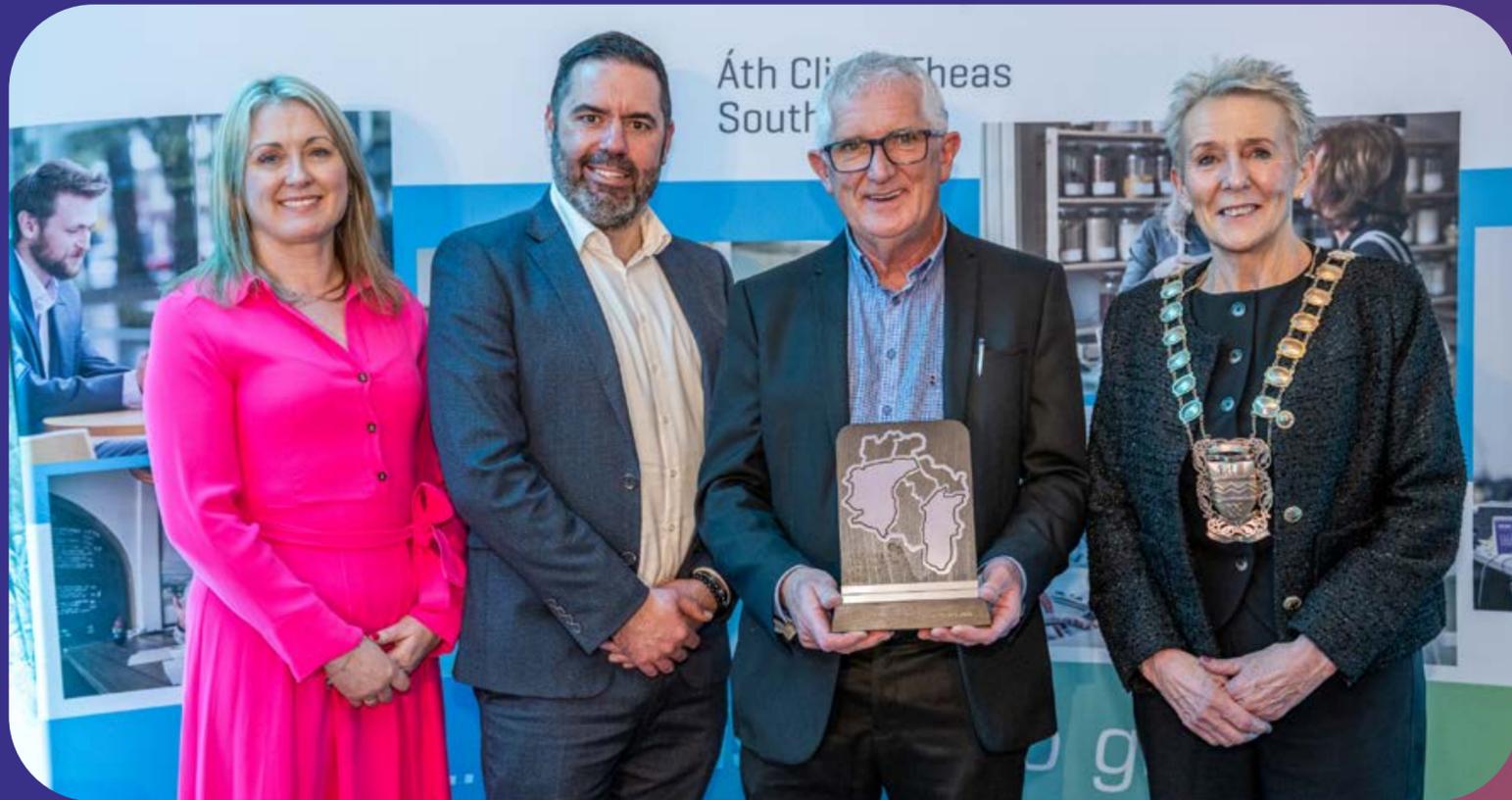
Food & Drink: Kahuna Pops - Ian Downes



Creative Economy (Scene): Mimink Studios - Miriam Cassidy



Start-up: Tutor Growth Limited (Dublin Maths) - Sean Langan



One to Watch: Nexus Inclusion - Kyran O'Mahony



A Better Place



Clonburris South Link Street update

Stage 1B of the South Link Street project in Clonburris reached substantial completion in December 2025, following the successful completion of the first stage of the project in March 2024.

Together, both stages deliver the South Link Street, a strategic east-west distributor route that forms the primary movement spine for the southern lands within Clonburris Strategic Development Zone. The street connects Ninth Lock Road to the R120 and directly unlocks both privately owned and SDCC-owned lands, supporting delivery of thousands of new homes south of the railway line. Across both stages, the route significantly improves permeability by providing new east-west connections between existing

neighbourhoods, emerging residential areas, schools, parks and future public transport links, while embedding active travel as a core feature of the street design.

The South Link Street is an urban street approximately four kilometres in length and incorporates junction upgrades, public lighting, utilities and drainage, along with fully integrated pedestrian and cycle infrastructure. The project also includes part of the Griffeen Valley Park Extension, further enhancing access to green space along the corridor.

The project is being delivered by SDCC in partnership with the other landowners within the SDZ who had also provided

funded to match grant support from the National Transport Authority and the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage's Urban Regeneration and Development Fund.

While the corridor is now largely complete, sections of the South Link Street, particularly within Stage one B, will open to the public on a phased

basis. This approach aligns to the pace of adjacent housing development and ensures safe operation, appropriate servicing access and effective traffic management. Initial sections of the street will begin opening in 2026, subject to safety audits and operational readiness, with further sections opening incrementally as development continues along the route.

HGV weight restriction review

A review of existing heavy goods vehicle weight restrictions is currently under way in line with the provisions of the Road Traffic Acts. This review aims to ensure that the restrictions in place remain appropriate, effective and responsive to the needs of road users and the wider community.

The primary focus of the review is to assess the suitability and impact of current weight restrictions and to consider whether changes are required. This includes examining the potential introduction of new restrictions, the amendment of existing ones or the removal of measures where they are no longer justified. The review considers road safety, the protection of residential amenity, the promotion of sustainable transport and the efficient movement of goods across the road network.

To date, engagement has taken place with elected members to inform the

development of a draft proposal for HGV weight restrictions. On 12 February 2026, a four-week public consultation period commenced, providing an opportunity for members of the public and stakeholders to share feedback on the draft proposals.

Following the conclusion of the consultation, our Traffic Section will assess the submissions received and make any necessary amendments to the draft proposals which will then be submitted to the Garda Commissioner for consideration.

Once agreement is reached, the final list of proposed weight restrictions will be brought to elected members for noting. Any new restrictions agreed will subsequently be implemented on a designated commencement date, and appropriate signage will be installed at all relevant locations in advance of the measures coming into effect.

A Better Place



Construction begins on Central Boulevard Park in Adamstown

Construction began last month on Central Boulevard Park in Adamstown, marking another important milestone in the ongoing development of the area.

Located close to both the primary care centre and the urban centre plaza, as well as the proposed site for the future civic building, Central Boulevard Park is designed to play a central role in everyday community life. Improved pedestrian and cycle connections through and around the park will enhance permeability, making it easier and safer for people to move through Adamstown in a sustainable way.

The design of the park places a strong emphasis on sustainability and green infrastructure. Existing natural features, including an established hedgerow and a mature oak tree, have been carefully integrated into the layout to help preserve local character and support biodiversity. The park is also designed

to cater for a wide range of ages and interests and will include distinct play and recreation areas. These include natural play spaces, dedicated areas for toddlers and younger children, a teen space incorporating an informal basketball play area, and a callisthenics area.

The park is supported by the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and will deliver high-quality public open space alongside housing development, in line with the Adamstown Strategic Development Zone planning scheme.

Works are being carried out by contractor Kiliwex, with completion currently projected for the first quarter of 2027 although due to the seasonal nature of some soft landscaping elements, the programme timeline will be dependent on ground conditions and weather.

Traffic light infrastructure maintenance and investment

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A Better Place



Kids have their say on play

As part of the implementation of SDCC's Play Policy, and to deliver on the investment committed in our new three-year capital programme, consultation has begun with communities where additional play facilities are needed. This work focuses on increasing children's access to high-quality play opportunities across the county.

Two enthusiastic groups of children and parents from Kilcronan and Balrothery visited County Hall on Thursday 5 February, to take part in a playground consultation for their areas. The groups were welcomed by the Mayor, Cllr. Pamela Kearns, and invited to directly share their ideas on future plans. The children had already shown great initiative by campaigning for new playgrounds and creating drawings of

their ideal play spaces, which were proudly displayed along the chamber walls.

During the session, the children spoke confidently about the types of play they would like to see and where they felt facilities should be located. A voting session took place in the council chamber, giving them the unique opportunity to sit in councillors' seats and voice their views. They took part in a structured vote on proposed equipment, clearly articulating their preferences and priorities.

The enthusiasm, confidence and determination shown throughout the day highlighted the importance of listening to children when planning spaces designed for them. Their contributions demonstrated how meaningful engagement can shape

facilities that genuinely reflect the needs of local communities and reinforce why children's voices matter in the delivery of public services.

This event marked a positive start to the new playspace programme, placing children

at the centre of the process and ensuring future playgrounds are informed by the ideas of those who will use them most. We would like to thank all the children and families who took part for their energy, creativity and commitment to improving play opportunities in their communities.

Synthetic turf bowling green approved for Sean Walsh Park

Plans for a new synthetic turf bowling green at Sean Walsh Park, Tallaght were approved at last month's council meeting in the culmination of a Part 8 planning process.

The approved proposal will see the addition of an all-weather bowling green within this well-used park, enhancing amenities for the local community. The new facility will also benefit residents of the nearby age-friendly housing development, The Weir, which comprises 81 age-friendly homes, by providing an accessible outdoor sporting facility within walking distance.

The development includes the construction of a synthetic turf bowling green with perimeter fencing, all necessary utility works including ducting, surface water drainage and utility supplies, and a new perimeter footpath. The scheme also provides for hard and soft landscaping works, including connecting paths and new planting, along with all associated ancillary works

required to support the facility.

The proposal has been widely welcomed, with recognition of its potential to support intergenerational activity and improve access to sport and recreation for people of all ages and abilities.

These plans complement a range of other improvements that are planned or already under way at Sean Walsh Park which include the completion of the Whitestown Greenway to Killinarden Park, that is currently under construction and will link downstream to the Dodder Greenway. Recent works also include the upgrade of the park's western vehicular entrance, delivered as part of the The Weir housing scheme. In addition, a planned upgrade of the existing pedestrian entrance and the trailhead for the Dublin Mountains Way will improve pedestrian safety, clearly mark the start of the long-distance walking route across the Dublin Mountains and provide a more welcoming entrance at this important western end of the park.

Connected Communities



Community funding opportunities now open across the county

Applications are now open for this year's Community Grants Scheme, offering vital support to local community and voluntary groups delivering projects and activities for people of all ages. Community grants play an important role in helping groups cover running costs, purchase equipment, deliver events, improve local environments, support youth initiatives and promote inclusion, wellbeing and local development.

The scheme supports a wide range of activity, from small start-up costs and ongoing operational expenses to larger initiatives such as community events, summer programmes and improvements to local facilities. The focus is on ensuring funding reaches a broad range of

communities and supports projects that create positive and lasting impacts at local level.

Groups are encouraged to prepare early and to check eligibility criteria before submitting an application. Full details of the available grants, along with guidance on how to apply, are available on our website at www.sdcc.ie. The Community Development Team will also deliver a series of workshops to explain the funding streams and guide groups through the application process. Further information on the scheme or the workshops is available by emailing community@sdblincoco.ie.

In addition to the Community Grants

Scheme, applications for the Community Infrastructure Fund will open this month. A total budget of €450,000 has been allocated to support community groups across the county, including sports clubs.

The Community Infrastructure Fund is designed to support capital projects such as the construction of new community facilities, along with the modernisation or expansion of existing buildings. The fund supports long-term infrastructure improvements and does not cover day-to-day running costs. Eligible groups

can apply for funding ranging from €5,000 to €50,000.

To support applicants, training sessions will be delivered across the county to help groups develop strong project proposals and better understand the application process. This fund represents a significant investment in local community infrastructure, and we look forward to working with groups to bring forward projects that will deliver lasting benefits for communities throughout the county.



Connected Communities



Tallaght St Patrick's Day Festival returns

Tallaght is set to come alive once again this St Patrick's Day, bringing people together to celebrate community, tradition and pride of place.

Following the success of last year's celebrations, SDCC is pleased to confirm that the Tallaght St Patrick's Day Festival will return this month. This year's event promises another memorable day filled with colour, culture and community spirit.

Building on the momentum of the event last year, the festival advisory committee has been working behind the scenes to put all key arrangements in place. The aim is to deliver a vibrant, high-quality celebration that honours Ireland's national holiday while showcasing the creativity, diversity and energy of the Tallaght community.

Festivities will begin at 11am, with a wide range of activities taking place throughout the day for all ages. Visitors

can enjoy live music, face painting and a variety of family-friendly attractions, creating a lively and welcoming atmosphere in the heart of the village.

A major highlight of the day will once again be the annual 5k road race, delivered in partnership with Tallaght Athletics Club. The race provides an energetic start to the celebrations ahead of the parade and continues to be a popular feature of the festival programme.

Community groups, schools, sports clubs and local organisations are encouraged to take part in the parade and bring their creativity to the day, with prizes awarded for the most original and eye-catching floats.

While parking will be available around Tallaght village, visitors are encouraged to walk where possible and take time to enjoy the festive atmosphere throughout the area.

Junior Safety Forum "Digital Guardians: Safe, Smart & Secure" workshop

The Junior Safety Forum, working with SDCC, An Garda Síochána and CyberSage, delivered a cyber security and online safety workshop on Friday 13 February titled Digital Guardians: Safe, Smart & Secure.

The workshop was designed specifically for sixth class students, with pupils from nine primary schools across South Dublin taking part. It placed young people at the centre of conversations about staying safe online, making informed choices and supporting community wellbeing. The session also reflected the Junior Safety Forum's commitment to ensuring children have a meaningful voice in shaping safer communities, both online and offline.

Cyber safety specialists from CyberSage and the Garda Cyber Crime Unit led the 90 minute interactive workshop. The session combined multimedia presentations, group activities and a closing discussion focused on practical actions. Students explored topics such as digital footprints, cyberbullying, online gaming risks, social media algorithms and what to expect as they transition to secondary school.

A key element of the workshop was a student-led activity called The Community Cyber Shield. Working in groups, students developed creative responses to common online safety challenges, including weak passwords, phishing attempts and

contact from strangers online. These mini-campaigns reflected the core values of the Junior Safety Forum by encouraging leadership, teamwork and peer-to-peer learning.

Rather than focusing solely on basic safety messages, the workshop aimed to equip children with the critical thinking skills needed to navigate the digital world with confidence and resilience.

Teachers, council representatives and members of An Garda Síochána supported the session, reinforcing the shared responsibility of schools, families, communities and public services in keeping young people safe online.



Cultural Richness



In County Hall, staff are taking part in the Buaigh Buidéal challenge, where a short conversation in Irish earns a reusable SDCC bottle. Our Irish Officer is also available to support staff by sharing a few useful phrases, while coffee mornings are featuring traditional Irish music. Two half-day Irish language refresher sessions have been offered to help staff build confidence in using their Gaeilge, and a leaflet of helpful phrases has been shared on the intranet and distributed in hard copy throughout County Hall.

As part of the wider programme, staff were also invited to take part in a webinar hosted by Gréasán Gaeilge na hEarnála Poiblí,

the public sector Irish language network. The group brings together public servants who are interested in using, practising or developing their Irish in the workplace.

We will also take part in Fís 2026 at the Convention Centre Dublin on 12 March, contributing to a showcase of what a bilingual public service can look like. This will include highlighting successful Gaeilge365 initiatives, such as the SDCC-led family arts festival Bronntanas. In addition, as part of Seachtain na Gaeilge, our Irish Officer will visit a local Gaelcholáiste to promote career opportunities within the council.

Seachtain na Gaeilge

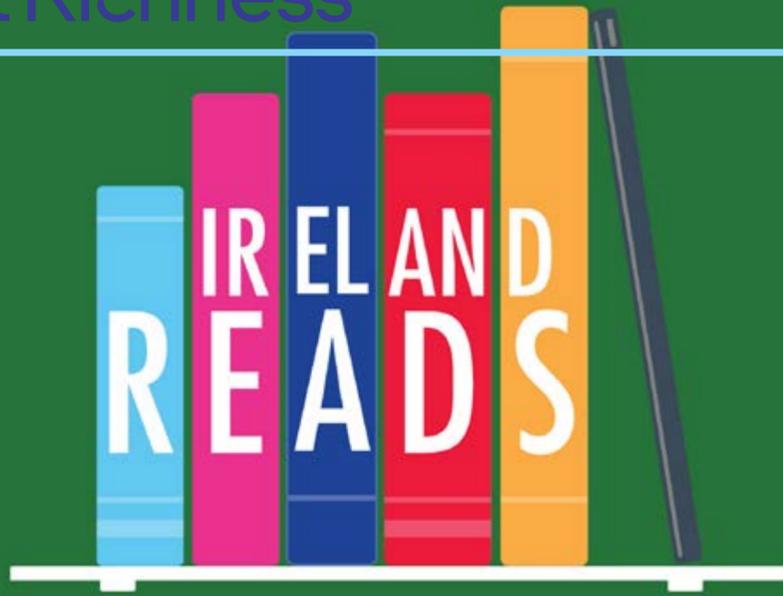
Seachtain na Gaeilge takes place nationally from 1 to 17 March each year. In South Dublin, we are now midway through a lively and inclusive programme of events organised by SDCC Libraries and Áras Chrónáin. Reflecting our purpose, Opportunity for All, the programme offers a wide range of activities for everyone, whether you are taking your first steps in Irish or already fluent.

Highlights so far have included Mo Chréatúr Gaelach – My Gaelic Creature in North Clondalkin Library, where participants designed their own mythical creations, and a vibrant performance by Kíla to a full house at Áras Chrónáin.

There is still a strong line-up of events to come. These include broadcaster, actress and podcaster Sinéad Ní Uallacháin in conversation with our Irish Officer, Muireann Ní Cheannabháin, in Ballyroan Library, and Irish Legends and Folklore with storyteller Róisín Murphy in Lucan Library. Clondalkin Library will host Focail nár chóir a chailliúint, a typography and print-based workshop focused on preserving beautiful Irish words and phrases at risk of being lost. Áras Chrónáin in Clondalkin village will also host Club na Féile, featuring music and song from Thursday to Sunday, 12 to 15 March, alongside a Family Fun Day on Saturday 14 March. The full Seachtain na Gaeilge Átha Cliath Theas programme is available on sdcc.ie.



Cultural Richness



Ireland Reads Day

Ireland Reads Day, held on 28 February, is a national library initiative that encourages people of all ages and abilities to read for pleasure and wellbeing. To mark the day, SDCC Libraries delivered a wide range of inclusive events across library branches, offering people different and creative ways to engage with reading.

In Tallaght Library, Ireland Reads Day marked the launch of D24 Reads for 2026, an adult reading challenge inviting participants to read 24 books over the year. Visitors were encouraged to sign up, collect reading stamps and take part in a programme of events and incentives planned throughout the year. The library also hosted an Ireland Reads Rhyming Storytime, celebrating language, rhythm and early literacy through shared reading experiences for young children.

Clondalkin Library welcomed adults

and children aged eight and over to an intergenerational illustration workshop inspired by Alice in Wonderland, creating a shared creative space that linked storytelling with art. In North Clondalkin Library, a varied programme included a Favourite Books Illustration Workshop, a Design Your Own Bookmark session using three-dimensional printing, and a Drop Everything and Read event, encouraging quiet reading in both print and digital formats.

Lucan Library hosted a fantasy-themed art workshop where children created dragon eggs inspired by their reading, linking imagination and creativity with stories they enjoyed. The mobile libraries also supported Ireland Reads Day by visiting The Park Community Centre in Firhouse, helping to bring the campaign beyond library buildings and into the wider community.

Creative and Active Festival launches in Balgaddy

The Creative and Active programme is coming to Balgaddy this Easter, with a launch event taking place on Saturday 11 April from 10am to 3pm. Everyone in the community is welcome to attend.

The launch event will run across three local locations, including Balgaddy Community Centre, Balgaddy Child and Family Resource Centre and the park at Tor an Rí Court, creating a lively and accessible festival atmosphere throughout the area.

On the day, a wide mix of free, hands-on workshops will be available for children, young people, families and adults. Activities will include dance, music and other creative sessions, offering opportunities to take part, watch or simply

enjoy the energy and atmosphere of the event.

Visitors will also have the chance to learn more about the Creative and Active programmes planned for the area, meet the teams delivering them and sign up for upcoming activities.

Creative and Active aims to bring people together by activating local spaces with creativity, movement and shared experiences. The programme is delivered by our Community Department and Arts Office through the NOISE Music programme, with support from local partners, and is designed to encourage participation, wellbeing and connection within communities.



Cultural Richness



Hopeful Theatre premieres new production at The Civic

Hopeful Theatre has partnered with Nigerian theatre-maker and filmmaker Newton Barabara to present a new production, *The Web*, which will premiere on 21 March at The Civic Studio. Formerly known as the Clondalkin Towers Drama Group, the company has been rehearsing weekly to develop this powerful new work, which explores the challenges faced by refugees even after they have been granted legal status.

This marks the group's second production, following the success of *The Journey*, which was performed last year at both The Civic and The Abbey Theatre. With each project, Hopeful Theatre continues to grow as a collaborative company rooted in shared experience and storytelling.

The Web centres on Kofi, who spent two years in direct provision while waiting to reunite with his family. When he is finally granted refugee status, he encounters a new barrier in the form of a change in government policy. This "new web" requires him to wait a further five years

before applying for family reunification, alongside meeting a financial threshold that feels out of reach for someone just beginning working life.

Newton Barabara explains that the play seeks to shift the narrative around migration from "the arrival" to "the survival". He says, "We invite the audience to step into the 'Web' with Kofi. On 21 March, we ask: if the law gives you a home but keeps you from your family, are you truly free?"

The production is presented to mark the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. Reflecting on the project, Newton adds that *The Web* provides an important space for dialogue between local leadership and the lived experiences of new members of our communities.

The project is funded by SDCC Arts Office, with additional support from The Abbey Theatre Education Department and The Civic Theatre.

Marking International Women's Day

International Women's Day takes place on 8 March each year. To mark the occasion, SDCC Libraries, along with our Local Enterprise Office, are hosting a series of events that celebrate women's experiences, achievements and contributions.

Events include *Birthing Modern Ireland: Our Reproductive Histories, 1950–1980*, which will take place in Ballyroan Library

on 10 March, and a Women in Business event on 11 March, delivered in partnership with Dublin Network and Partas.

Building on the success of last year's programme, SDCC's Women's Caucus and our Local Enterprise Office will host another panel discussion in County Hall later this year. This event will provide further opportunities for people to engage in discussion and share perspectives.

New social space and theatre opens in Tallaght

The Mayor of South Dublin and members of the Integration Team attended the official opening of Gaelphobal Thamhlachta's new social space and theatre on Friday 20 February.

The project was funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht through the Community Recognition Fund 2024–2025. Introduced in 2023, the fund recognises the significant efforts made by communities in welcoming and supporting people coming to Ireland. It supports projects that demonstrate local engagement with new arrivals and reflect the increasing diversity of communities across the country.

Gaelphobal Thamhlachta is a branch of Conradh na Gaeilge and is aligned with the recently launched Céad Míle Fáilte initiative. The new social space and theatre reflect the spirit of this initiative by creating welcoming, inclusive opportunities for new

arrivals to engage with the Irish language and culture.

Gael-Ionad Thamhlachta first opened in late 2019 and has since focused on developing Aon Scéal Café, along with offices for an Irish Language Officer and the Feachtas Thamhlachta club. These initiatives have been highly successful in creating a vibrant Irish-language hub in the area.

In addition, Gaelphobal Thamhlachta has delivered a wide range of integration-focused activities, including card design, crochet, conversation circles, social events and Irish language classes. These programmes have supported people from many different nationalities to become part of the local community, helping them to develop basic language skills and gain a deeper understanding of Irish culture.

Cultural Richness



These Beautiful Men launches Rua Red gallery programme

Rua Red launches its 2026 gallery programme on Friday 6 March with 'These Beautiful Men', a newly commissioned body of work and exhibition by artist Brian Maguire.

Since October 2025, Maguire has been drawing men temporarily residing at an International Protection Accommodation Services (IPAS) Centre, a primary reception and processing centre for international protection applicants. Maguire and Rua Red established a temporary art studio within the IPAS centre where artist Michael Mangan runs workshops three times a week. While Brian draws portraits of the men, participants in Mangan's workshop are invited to paint their understanding of home and hopes for the future. Maguire's

portraits will be presented in Rua Red's Gallery One, while Gallery Two will feature audio recordings of the men's experiences and journeys to Ireland. Life in the IPAS centre is marked by transience and uncertainty. Residents are relocated to accommodation at other locations at very short notice, typically within three weeks of arrival. This ever-present condition of impermanence informs Maguire's drawings, which are rapid responses made in charcoal. The works underscore the urgency and fragility of the encounters on which they are based.

Central to Maguire's practice is an ethics of witnessing, developed through direct engagement with communities. Time spent listening, observing, and

being present is fundamental to the work itself. In recent years, Maguire has travelled the world to highlight injustice and the precarity of life for vulnerable communities, working in Montana (2020-25), the Amazon (2022-23), Arizona/US-Mexico border (2021-22), South Sudan (2018), Aleppo, Syria (2017), the Mediterranean Sea (2016), Ciudad Juárez, Mexico (2008-2015), and São Paulo, Brazil (1998-2003) to name a few. Working in Ireland for the first time in many years, Maguire now turns his attention to those seeking international protection from some of the conflicts and conditions his work has previously addressed.

In a context where individuals are often reduced to statistics, Maguire's portraits consider what it means to be seen, acknowledged, and brought into representation. Each sitter is given agency and dignity.

The exhibition at Rua Red runs concurrently and in dialogue with the exhibition 'Brian Maguire: Portraits— The Failure of the State', currently on view at the Irish Arts Centre (IAC), New York. Both exhibitions, curated by Jonathan Cummins and Maolíosa Boyle, centre on portraiture as an act of sustained attention — a turning towards another person, their family, and community — and bearing witness through time spent looking and listening to their stories and experiences. These concerns resonate strongly here also in this new work with

its emphasis on presence, encounter, and testimony.

As Art for Human Rights notes of Maguire's practice: "His work isn't just about aesthetics or expression - it carries a clear purpose: to confront injustice head-on and serve as a vehicle through which real human stories reach the world."

These Beautiful Men will be launched by Nick Henderson, CEO of the Irish Refugee Council this Friday, 6 March at 6pm. 'These Beautiful Men' by Brian Maguire was commissioned by Rua Red South Dublin Arts Centre curated by Maolíosa Boyle and Jonathan Cummins, funded by The Arts Council Ireland, South Dublin County Council Arts Office and Rua Red South Dublin Arts Centre.



People First



New public Wi-Fi hub launched across South Dublin

A new public Wi-Fi Hub has been launched by SDCC, providing an interactive online map of all publicly accessible Wi-Fi locations across South Dublin County. The easy-to-use platform brings together 112 active access points across 64 strategic public hubs, including libraries, community centres, parks, civic spaces and WiFi4EU locations.

The Wi-Fi Hub offers a clear visual guide to both indoor and outdoor coverage. Users can search individual locations, view notional connection ranges and get directions instantly. The platform also explains how residents and visitors can connect easily to free public Wi-Fi while accessing local services, learning resources or community facilities.

This rollout supports our commitment to digital inclusion by providing free and reliable internet access in the places where people live, learn, work and socialise. Public Wi-Fi helps remove barriers for those with limited broadband access at home, supports students and jobseekers, and encourages people to stay connected while using public spaces across the county.

This initiative reflects our ambition to deliver modern, accessible digital services that strengthen community participation and ensure everyone can benefit from high-quality connectivity. The Wi-Fi Hub will continue to develop as new sites are added, representing an important step towards a more connected and digitally inclusive county.

Safer Internet Day 2026 – AI aware: safe, smart and in control

Safer Internet Day 2026 took place on Tuesday 10 February, with this year's theme, AI Aware: Safe, Smart and in Control, highlighting the growing role artificial intelligence plays in shaping online experiences. Coordinated nationally by Webwise, the campaign forms part of a global effort to promote a safer and more positive digital environment, particularly for children and young people.

Artificial intelligence now underpins many everyday digital tools, from search engines and social media platforms to education and productivity technologies. This year's campaign encouraged people to better understand how AI influences the content they see, to safeguard their privacy and to make informed choices when using digital services.

For us, the campaign complemented our wider digital awareness programme, building on Cyber Security Month and leading into Digital Services Awareness Week in April. Staff were supported through the sharing of Webwise resources via the intranet and staff mobile app, helping to build practical awareness of emerging digital risks and opportunities.

Our Communications Unit supported the national campaign by sharing Safer Internet Day content across social media channels, while Digital Services representatives attended the national programme event at the Department of Justice, engaging with experts on responsible AI use and digital safety. Additional guidance for parents, guardians and educators is available through Webwise at <https://www.webwise.ie/aiaware/>.

Safer Internet Day 2026

**AI AWARE:
SAFE, SMART AND
IN CONTROL**



People First



Cyber Security Awareness Week to take place in April

Following the success of Cyber Security Month in October 2025, a dedicated Cyber Security Awareness Week will take place from 13 to 17 April. The week aims to further strengthen staff awareness and confidence in staying safe online, both at work and at home.

Throughout the week, staff will have access to a series of expert-led sessions focusing on current cyber threats, practical prevention measures and best-practice guidance. An online facilitated version of Hooked, the theatre production delivered by Theatre at Work last year, will also be available. This engaging production highlights how

easily people can be manipulated into sharing sensitive information and explores practical steps to avoid this.

A drop-in clinic will run alongside the programme, offering staff the opportunity to seek advice on secure technology use, whether related to work devices, personal devices or general online safety.

Cyber Security Awareness Week is a reminder that staying safe online is a shared responsibility. We look forward to strong participation as we continue to build a secure and resilient digital environment across the organisation.

Recruitment team meets jobseekers across South Dublin

Our Recruitment Team recently took part in employment events at The Mill Shopping Centre in Clondalkin and at Liffey Valley Shopping Centre. The events were organised by the Department of Social Protection and provided a great opportunity to connect with jobseekers in-person.

During the events, the team spoke with hundreds of people about the wide range of career opportunities available with SDCC, as well as the benefits of working within local government. The strong level of interest highlighted the importance of meeting people where they are and promoting careers in public service.

We are also looking forward to an upcoming employment event at TU Dublin's Tallaght campus on 15 April, where we will again showcase the variety of roles and career paths available with SDCC.

More information on the range of jobs and careers we offer, along with the benefits of working with us, is available through our Employee Value Proposition at <https://www.sdcc.ie/en/services/our-council/about-us/careers/sdcc-and-our-employee-value-proposition.pdf>. Current vacancies can be viewed at sdccjobs.ie.



County Matters

Navigating Storm Chandra

Storm Chandra was a severe weather event that created challenging conditions over a prolonged period and had devastating impacts for some communities across South Dublin. SDCC remained on alert and responsive throughout the event, from 27 January to 6 February 2026.

Met Éireann issued a yellow weather warning for Storm Chandra on Monday 26 January, effective in the Dublin region from 5am to 11pm on Tuesday 27 January. The warning highlighted strong winds and gusts. As the eastern region had already experienced weekly rainfall levels in excess of 400 per cent of the average norm, Met Éireann also issued a river flood advisory for eastern counties, including the Dublin region.

Following Storm Chandra, weather conditions remained unsettled, with

further yellow warnings issued. On Thursday 5 February, Met Éireann upgraded the alert to an orange rainfall warning from midday through to Friday 6 February, citing the risk of heavy rain falling on saturated ground combined with high tides, which increased the likelihood of localised and river flooding. Due to persistent rainfall before and after the storm, the eastern region, including Dublin, remained under a flood advisory until Saturday 7 February. At its peak, weekly rainfall levels in the Dublin area exceeded 500 per cent of the average norm.

Analysis by Maynooth University and Met Éireann, reported in The Irish Times, found that climate change made this flood event three times more likely to occur. Rainfall of this scale, which previously might have been expected once every 150 years, is

Summary of Severe Weather-related incidents reported to SDCC during the Orange weather alert

Category	Reports to SDCC Staff	Out of Hours Reports	Total
Flooding	13	31	44
Fallen trees	6	10	16
Infrastructure damage	-	4	4
Public Lighting / Traffic Lights	-	6	6
Damage to SDCC housing	-	46	46
Total	19	97	116

now projected to occur approximately once every 60 years.

In the early hours of Tuesday 27 January, intense rainfall on already saturated ground led to widespread flooding, primarily due to rivers overtopping their banks. Calls reporting flood-related incidents began at approximately 1.30am. These were initially managed by on-call staff, and as the scale and severity of the situation became clear, our crews responded throughout the night.

The Severe Weather Assessment Team was mobilised to assess conditions, coordinate the response, and identify actions required to mitigate further flooding. The team engaged with the National Emergency Coordination Group, Ireland's central government mechanism for coordinating national responses to major emergencies. This group brings together government departments, local authorities, emergency services, Met Éireann and national agencies such as Transport Infrastructure Ireland and Uisce Éireann. For Storm Chandra, the

group established subgroups focused on the Liffey catchment and humanitarian assistance, with daily meetings held throughout the event, including over the public holiday weekend.

During the initial response, crews worked to alleviate standing floodwater. As water levels receded, they began an extensive clean-up operation. Debris was removed from affected areas, and we worked with contractors and ESB Networks to help restore power to homes where access was permitted by homeowners.

With further rainfall warnings in place and flood risk ongoing, crews continued responding to incidents over the following two weeks. River screens were checked and cleared of debris, while jetting crews worked to clear drains and gullies impacted by floodwater.

Sandbags were distributed to residents in the most affected areas, with pallets held on standby at depots close to locations identified as being at risk. In total we distributed between 2,800 and



3,000 sandbags to residents across South Dublin. In addition, the Office of Public Works installed approximately 850 sandbags at the Whitechurch Stream, where flood alleviation works are currently under construction.

River levels were closely monitored using both telemetry and on-site inspections. Particular attention was given to the River Liffey at Lucan, informed by engagement with the Liffey catchment subgroup and data from Poulaphouca Reservoir. We also coordinated with Dún Laoghaire–Rathdown County Council and Dublin City Council, including joint mitigation measures in the Nutgrove area.

During the event, Dublin City Council responded to media queries and facilitated broadcast interviews, with reporters spending time on site alongside crews to observe mitigation works in progress.

On 27 January, the out-of-hours service received 56 calls relating to Storm Chandra between 1.30am and 9am. The majority of those calls (52) concerned flooding incidents in Rathfarnham, Knocklyon, Templeogue, Glenasmole, Clondalkin and Lucan, while four related to weather impacts on social housing. Over the two-week period, approximately 340 storm-related calls were received.

The most significant incidents included flooding along Whitechurch Road and Grange Park following overtopping of the Whitechurch River, with an estimated 20 homes affected; major flooding on Nutgrove Avenue due to the Little Dargle bursting its banks, requiring a coordinated response with Dún Laoghaire–Rathdown County Council; flooding at Ely’s Arch where the Dargle rivers converge, affecting the Woodside estate and involving crews from three local authorities; runoff-related flooding in Killinarden affecting

one home; surcharging of manholes in Coolamber Park without residential flooding; flooding on Ballyboden Road; flooding in Dodderbrook and Stocking Well, where five social housing properties were impacted and tenants were advised to vacate; reports of leaks in approximately 35 council homes; temporary road closures at Grange Park Road and Dodder Road at the Woodside junction; and the closure of Cruagh Road due to a structural collapse of a retaining wall, with repairs expected to require between six and eight weeks, subject to further investigation.

It was confirmed that affected areas were eligible for support under the Department of Social Protection Humanitarian Assistance Scheme and the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment flooding scheme for small businesses. We promoted these supports and assisted residents with applications where possible. Online registration forms were also established to allow residents and businesses to provide contact details for follow-up. In total, 38 residential properties registered through this process.

Looking ahead, flood alleviation schemes are ongoing in partnership with the Office of Public Works. Works are currently under way on the Whitechurch Stream and River Poddle schemes, while the River Camac scheme is at preliminary design stage. During Storm Chandra, the benefits of the River Poddle Flood Alleviation Scheme were already evident. At comparable flow levels, flooding would normally be expected in areas such as Kimmage and Harold’s Cross, yet none occurred. The flood attenuation area in Tymon Park

played a key role in reducing downstream impacts, significantly lowering flow volumes entering the Dublin City Council area.

We are continuing to investigate the flooding that occurred and are reviewing the response to identify further adaptation measures. This work will take place in phases, beginning with an initial assessment of flood mechanisms observed during the event.

No riverbank breaches or property damage were recorded along the River Poddle or the Whitechurch Stream, where a combined €30 million investment is currently being made through flood alleviation schemes designed to protect over 1,000 residential and commercial properties. A key element of the River Poddle scheme is the impoundment area at Tymon Park Lake, which has been operational since February 2025. During its first major test, downstream river levels were lower than those recorded during comparable historical rainfall events, demonstrating the effectiveness of this new infrastructure.

Throughout the storm, crews from Roads, Public Realm, Natural Water and Housing worked together to actively monitor conditions across the county, responding to 116 reported weather-related incidents. Roads crews worked through the night on Friday, finishing at approximately 2am, with other departments on call as required. Work continued on Saturday morning until all reported incidents had been addressed as far as possible at that time.



County Matters

Economic Strategy 2026–2036 launched in Work IQ

The launch of our Economic Strategy 2026–2036 took place in Work IQ, Tallaght, bringing together business leaders, education partners, elected members and key economic stakeholders from across the county.

Opening the event, Mayor Cllr. Pamela Kearns outlined the ambition and responsibility underpinning the strategy. She highlighted South Dublin's strong economic base, currently valued at over

€22 billion, and the clear target to create one thousand five hundred new jobs each year over the coming decade. The Mayor emphasised that future growth must be sustainable, innovation-led and inclusive, ensuring opportunity for all communities across the county.

The strategy sets out a structured roadmap for economic development to 2036, built around four interconnected pillars: sectors, space, people and

place. It outlines how we will support priority sectors, optimise employment lands, strengthen placemaking and develop a coordinated response to skills needs. The strong focus on workforce development within the people pillar reflects the recognition that long-term competitiveness depends on aligning education, enterprise and community partners with future labour market demand.

Ahead of the panel discussion, Peter Byrne, chief executive of South Dublin Chamber, addressed attendees and welcomed the strategy from a business perspective. He highlighted the importance of clarity, partnership and infrastructure alignment for companies operating in an increasingly complex economic environment, and reaffirmed the Chamber's commitment to working with the council to support delivery over the next decade.

The centrepiece of the event was a panel discussion hosted by broadcaster and entrepreneur Sonya Lennon. The panel featured Chief Executive Colm Ward, Oscar-nominated film producer Gary Levinsohn and food entrepreneur Aisling Tuck.

Speaking about the importance of partnership, governance and delivery, Colm Ward emphasised that the strategy is action-focused and grounded in measurable outcomes while also

highlighting the scale of regeneration under way in Tallaght and City Edge, and the need for coordinated, place-based planning to support existing businesses while creating new opportunities.

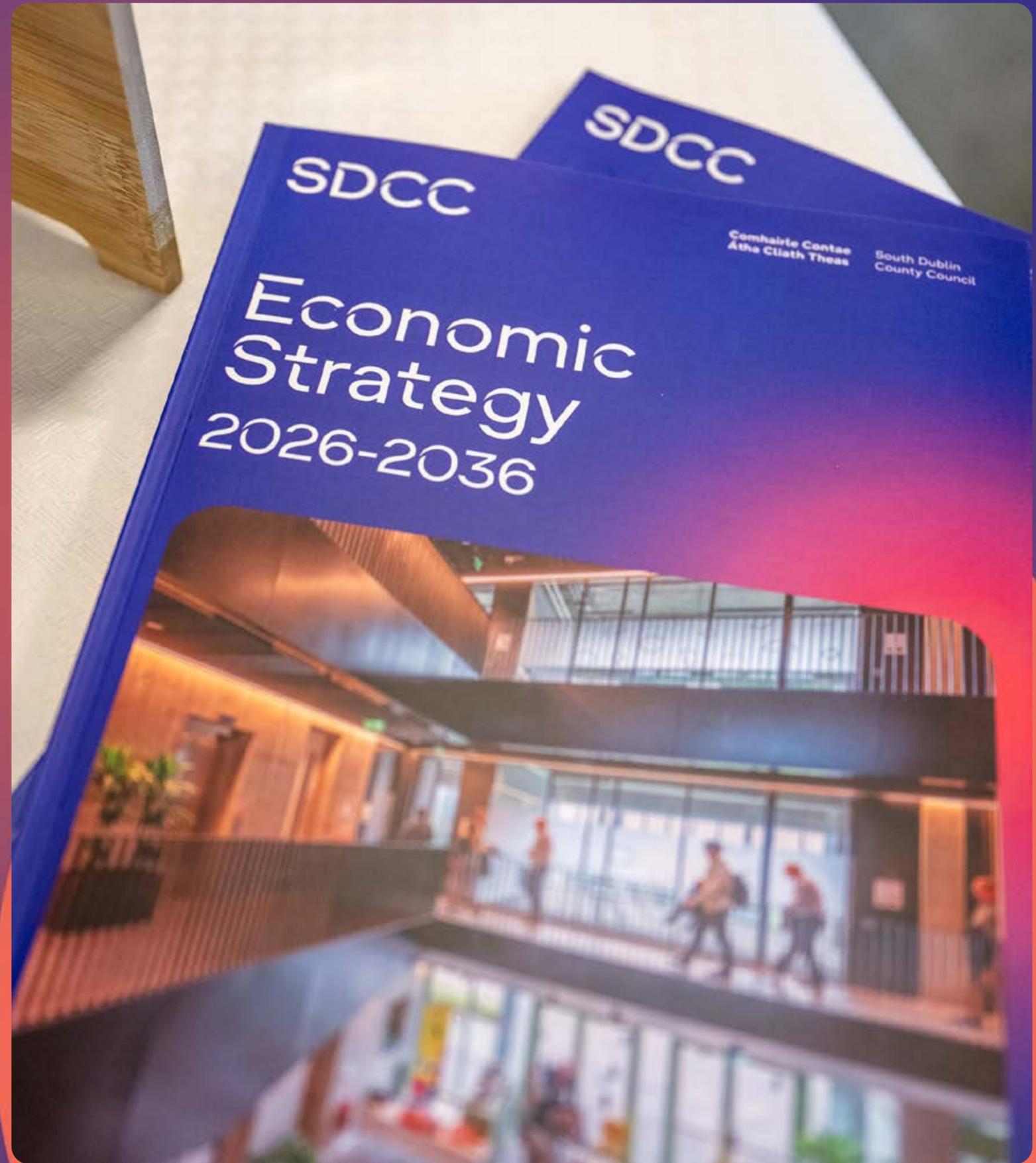
Gary Levinsohn shared insights into the role of the creative industries in driving high-value employment and attracting global investment. Drawing on his involvement in the Dublin Fields film studios project in South Dublin, he reinforced the strategy's focus on sectoral clustering and the county's potential to strengthen its position in film and media production.

Bringing an entrepreneurial perspective to the discussion, Aisling Tuck, founder of Naked Bakes shared her experience of building and scaling a food business in Ireland. Her contribution highlighted the practical challenges faced by small and medium-sized enterprises, from accessing production space to navigating retail growth, and underlined the importance of strong local supports and a connected enterprise ecosystem.

The launch event demonstrated the breadth of South Dublin's economic landscape, from global film production to indigenous food enterprise, and reflected a shared commitment among partners to deliver on the ambitions of the Economic Strategy. The Economic Strategy 2026–2036 is now available at www.sdcc.ie.







County Matters

SDCC Scoop Council of the Year at LAMA Awards

SDCC scooped the Council of the Year Award at the 2026 LAMA All Ireland Community and Council Awards, held on 28 February in the Dublin Royal Convention Centre.

This year marked the 20th Anniversary of the annual awards ceremony and 40 years of the LAMA executive. These awards shine a spotlight on the incredible collaboration between communities and councils. They provide a platform to showcase outstanding local initiatives, honour unsung heroes, and acknowledge the remarkable contributions that enrich and strengthen our communities.

Speaking on the night, Chief Executive Colm Ward said; “We are incredibly humbled to receive this award, to get the recognition of councillors is phenomenal. We have a great team, great staff, great councillors, community groups and partners who all work every day to create opportunities and deliver real change for our communities.”

SDCC also took home the Best Enterprise and Startup Hub category for WorkIQ. Representing major investment in the local economy, WorkIQ is more than just an office space for start-ups and growing enterprises in South Dublin. It

is a purpose-built innovation centre in the heart of the new Innovation Square. Strategically located; it features modern and flexible office and coworking space for up to 60 businesses, plus outstanding meeting rooms and conference facilities and is connected to our local district heating network and easily accessible by public transport.

Mayor of South Dublin, Cllr. Pamela Kearns who accepted the award on behalf of the council also expressed her delight. Speaking to compère on the night; Marty Whelan, Mayor Kearns said; “We have the most amazing staff who work really close with us as councillors to constantly improve people’s lives in our community. This work is coming to fruition now and I’m enormously proud of the work of everyone involved.”

SDCC were shortlisted in eight categories overall - other projects shortlisted were the Grand Canal Greenway in Best Community Scale Enhancements, Corkagh Park Regeneration in Best Transformative Capital Project, Connecting communities through the regeneration of West Tallaght Parks in Community Wellbeing Initiative, Parthalán Place in Reimagining Public Places, Innovation Apartments in Best Sustainable Infrastructure and the Tesco Community Fund was shortlisted in the Best CSR Project in a Community for their work in Lucan.

The council was also recently named



Local Authority of the Year at the 2025 Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards in November, marking an incredible double honour for SDCC. We are extremely grateful for this recognition and remain dedicated to serving South Dublin with clarity, confidence, and compassion. Thank you to our community for your ongoing support and engagement. Together, we’re shaping a brighter future.



County Matters

Capital Programme for 2026–2028

At the January council meeting, our elected members were presented with the updated three-year capital programme 2026–2028 for their consideration. This plan includes provision for expenditure on ongoing approved projects, planned initiatives, and additional proposals which we aim to progress, along with details of the proposed funding required to deliver the programme.

With planned expenditure exceeding €1.692 billion, across projects aligned with national policy and the objectives of the County Development Plan and Corporate Plan, this programme reflects our commitment to investment in key priority areas including housing delivery, climate action, compact and sustainable growth, economic development, and enhanced public and social infrastructure.

Through this investment, we aim to improve quality of life for residents, strengthen communities, enhance our public amenities and support local businesses to prosper.

Key programme highlights include:

- Significant expansion of social, affordable, and cost rental housing, supported by new direct-build and procurement approaches as part of an investment of almost €1 billion.
- Strategic infrastructure planning and delivery to advance compact

Capital Expenditure	2026	2027	2028	Total
Housing and Building	€338,293,000	€311,314,000	€390,487,000	€1,040,094,000
Road Transport and Safety	€38,609,000	€63,769,000	€49,999,000	€152,377,000
Surface Water and Flood Relief Works	€25,285,000	€12,185,000	€5,355,000	€42,825,000
Development Management	€95,323,000	€122,265,000	€44,257,000	€261,845,000
Environmental Services	€13,000,000	€7,425,000	€2,900,000	€23,325,000
Recreation and Amenity	€69,279,000	€46,828,000	€13,121,000	€129,228,000
Miscellaneous	€17,275,000	€19,725,000	€6,700,000	€43,700,000
Total	€597,064,000	€583,511,000	€512,819,000	€1,693,394,000

- growth and facilitate further housing development across the county.
- Provision of new Traveller accommodation and a pilot modular homes initiative for local households currently experiencing homelessness.
- Comprehensive investment in our social housing stock and energy efficiency upgrades.
- Economic and enterprise development initiatives such as the 12th Lock projects, a food production hub, potential hotel development, and a range of town, village, and district enhancement programmes.
- Climate action and mitigation projects, including flood alleviation works, public lighting upgrades, EV charging infrastructure, energy efficiency improvements in SDCC owned buildings, expansion of the active travel

- network, and potential district heating projects, including the extension of the Tallaght Heatnet scheme, alleviation works, public lighting upgrades, EV charging infrastructure, energy efficiency improvements in Council owned buildings, expansion of the active travel network, and potential district heating projects, including the extension of the Tallaght Heatnet scheme.
- New projects to enhance our parks, public spaces, and the wider public realm.
- Development and expansion of our libraries, community centres, cultural, sports, and leisure facilities.
- Key tourism and heritage initiatives, including works at Hellfire Dublin Mountains, Lucan House, Rathfarnham Castle outbuildings, and the Tallaght

heritage centre.

- Depot restructuring, corporate workplace refurbishment, and the rollout of a new digital services platform to improve public service delivery.

While it is heavily dependent on grant funding from central government and other partners, the programme also significantly utilises approximately €398 million of the council's own resources from levies and reserves to create greater opportunity for all.

Overall, it represents an ambitious and forward-looking framework designed to ensure that South Dublin is a place that meets the needs and ambition of everyone who lives, works, visits, and does business here now and in future.

County Matters

Minister marks construction milestones on 323 new homes

Important progress has been marked on the delivery of 323 new social homes across two locations in the county, reflecting continued momentum in meeting local housing need and building sustainable communities.

Recent on-site events in Saggart and Adamstown highlighted key construction milestones on developments being delivered in partnership with Tuath Housing and private sector partners. These homes will be allocated to households on the local authority housing waiting list, supporting individuals and families to put down roots close to services, transport and amenities.

At Garter's Lane in Saggart, construction has commenced on 223 apartments following a sod-turning ceremony attended by Minister for Housing, Local

Government and Heritage James Browne TD and Mayor Cllr. Pamela Kearns. The development will provide one, two and three-bed homes, including 44 apartments designed specifically for older people, supporting independent living within a well-connected neighbourhood.

The scheme also includes shared indoor spaces, resident amenities, offices and meeting rooms, all located within walking distance of the Luas stop and Saggart village centre. This location-led approach supports everyday living and encourages strong community connections. The development is scheduled for delivery in early 2028.

In Adamstown, a topping-out ceremony marked the final stage of construction at St Helen's Plaza, a development of 80 one and two-bed apartments being



delivered with Tuath Housing and Evara. The scheme includes a courtyard, outdoor playground and a crèche, creating a family-friendly environment in close proximity to Adamstown train station and Airlie Park. Completion is expected this year. [tuathhousing.ie] These developments demonstrate how collaboration continues to play a central role in increasing the supply of high-quality social housing. Tuath Housing currently manages over 2,200 homes in the county and has a strong pipeline of further homes planned in partnership with us over the coming years.

Speaking at the event, Mayor Cllr. Pamela Kearns highlighted the importance of

progress on the Saggart development, noting that the new homes represent a major investment in meeting local housing need while creating inclusive, well-designed places to live. The location and quality of the homes will support residents to live independently, close to public transport and essential services.

Both developments are being funded through the Capital Advance Leasing Facility from the Department of Housing, alongside loan finance from the Housing Finance Agency. Together, these projects reflect our ongoing commitment to delivering homes at scale, strengthening communities and working in partnership to respond to housing demand across the county.



Finance Report

Billing & Collection Report @ 20 Feb 2026

Billing	Arrears 31 Dec 2025	Budget 2026	Billed	Receipts /Credits	Arrears	% of Billed income
Commercial Rates	€11,192,587	€157,614,100	€159,823,689	€19,640,667	€151,375,609	12%
Social Housing Rents	€7,802,151	€42,547,400	€6,924,919	€6,809,862	€7,917,208	98%
RAS Rents	€1,227,055	€2,315,500	€361,362	€353,725	€1,234,692	98%
Cash Receipts	Arrears 31 Dec 2025	Budget 2026	Billed	Receipts /Credits	Arrears	% of Budget income
Planning Fees	n/a	€1,110,000	n/a	€73,991	€0	7%
Fire Certificates	n/a	€450,000	n/a	€74,584	€0	17%
Parking Fees	n/a	€803,000	n/a	€55,799	€0	7%
Uisce Eireann	€91,652	€1,759,400	€192,405	€114,585	€169,472	7%
	€20,313,445	€206,599,400	€167,302,375	€27,123,214	€160,696,981	

Debt Analysis - Social Housing Rent Accounts			
Category	Number	Amount	%
No arrears	6312	2,770,814	58%
0-6 weeks	2023	403,732	19%
7-12 weeks	512	347,450	5%
13-18 weeks	291	361,093	3%
19-24 weeks	229	390,196	2%
25-52 weeks	571	1,701,579	5%
1 - 2 years	489	2,683,830	4%
> 2 years	476	4,800,142	4%
Total	10,903	€7,917,208	100%

Debt Analysis - Commercial Rates Accounts		
Year	Amount	%
2026	140,263,239	93%
2025	3,841,677	3%
2024	2,157,880	1%
2023	1,370,506	1%
2022	1,080,746	1%
2021	539,345	0%
2020	75,902	0%
Pre 2019	2,040,314	1%
Total	€151,375,609	100%

SDCC and JC Decaux sign long term partnership



Sod turning at Garter Lane, Saggart



Carrigmore Park Mini Woodland planting



Launch of Local Community Safety Partnership





Site visit to St. Helen's Plaza, Adamstown

Socials
Facebook
X
Instagram
YouTube

Website
www.sdcc.ie

Corporate Plan
corporateplan.sdcc.ie

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