

**QUESTIONS LODGED PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER NO.18 FOR REPLY AT THE MONTHLY MEETING OF DUBLIN CITY COUNCIL TO BE HELD ON MONDAY, 5<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2022**

**Q.1 COUNCILLOR ALISON GILLILAND**

To ask the Chief Executive to outline our plans for increasing cycle parking on streets with retail and hospitality offerings both within the core city centre area and outside core city centre areas.

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:**

Dublin City Council with the support of the National Transport Authority has been delivering an on-street cycle parking programme since 2013. Over the past decade circa 6580 new cycle parking spaces have been provided throughout the Dublin City Council administrative area.

In addition Dublin City Council redeveloped Drury Street Car Park during 2018 which now provides in excess of 300 cycle parking places as well as secure bike lockers for long term parking. Last year, working in partnership with two north side car park facilities, Dublin City Council provided 64 cycle parking spaces & 4 accessible / cargo bike spaces at Jervis Street and 98 cycle parking spaces & 4 accessible / cargo bike spaces at Q-Park, Cathal Brugha Street. Dublin City Council regularly monitors these facilities and all of them continue to have free spaces available for cycle parking.

An interactive map of the cycle parking provided in Dublin City is available at <https://dublinbikeparking.co>.

It should be noted that as the programme has been rolled out it has become increasingly difficult to locate suitable on-street cycle parking spaces particularly within the city centre. As the available space on footpaths reduced, more cycle parking has been installed on the carriageway. However the opportunities for converting road space to cycle parking are also limited. We would expect these factors to impact on the delivery of on-street cycle parking going forward.

Bearing in mind the above constraints, the on-street cycle parking project is due to continue into 2023 and if the Councillor wishes to submit any particular requests for additional cycle parking, the Environment & Transportation Department will investigate as part of a future batch of on-street cycle parking.

**Q.2 COUNCILLOR DECLAN MEENAGH**

To ask the Chief Executive for the amount per year for the last 10 years paid out in Dublin City for the following three grants and to ask him to make a statement on the figures. Housing aid for older people, housing aid for people with disability, mobility aid grant.

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:**

The Housing Grant Section administers three Housing Grants Schemes designed to provide assistance to people making adaptations to their privately owned homes to meet their medical needs and to older people in poor housing conditions carrying out essential repairs to their owner occupied homes. These measures enable people to stay in their own communities and prevent or delay their placement in residential care thereby reducing social segregation, assisting their carer's and strengthening families.

The figures below are the amounts paid out each year for the last ten years for the respective grants:

<b>1.</b>	<b>Housing Adaptation Grant for People with a Disability</b>	
<b>Year</b>	<b>No of Grants paid</b>	<b>Total amount expended</b>
2013	714	€6,061,731.03
2014	431	€3,305,474.47
2015	609	€4,810,085.54
2016	718	€5,479,100.77
2017	789	€6,551,324.01
2018	857	€7,374,617.78
2019	861	€7,737,136.81
2020	672	€6,079,819.51
2021	799	€7,164,267.80
2022 (to end of October)	704	€7,130,962.71

<b>2.</b>	<b>Mobility Aids Grant</b>	
<b>Year</b>	<b>No of Grants paid</b>	<b>Total amount expended</b>
2013	44	€184,283.60
2014	35	€145,655.08
2015	71	€307,006.27
2016	87	€404,247.90
2017	97	€445,381.20
2018	84	€324,114.35
2019	103	€415,182.46
2020	99	€389,798.27
2021	100	€331,288.79
2022 (to end of October)	89	€349,948.50

<b>3. Housing Aid for Older People Grant</b>		
<b>Year</b>	<b>No of Grants paid</b>	<b>Total amount expended</b>
2013	82	€450,306.98
2014	36	€166,751.40
2015	78	€270,804.41
2016	64	€201,437.66
2017	84	€289,414.55
2018	136	€477,416.19
2019	163	€518,729.27
2020	204	€731,643.52
2021	259	€975,991.66
2022 (to end of October)	257	€1,030,082.84

<b><u>Combined total expenditure for the three grants</u></b>	
<b>Year</b>	<b>Total amount expended</b>
2013	€6,696,321.61
2014	€3,617,880.95
2015	€5,387,896.22
2016	€6,084,786.33
2017	€7,286,119.76
2018	€8,176,148.32
2019	€8,671,048.54
2020	€7,201,261.3
2021	€8,471,548.25
2022 (to end of October)	€8,510,994.05

The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage allocates the budget for the Housing Adaptation Grants for Older People and People with a Disability scheme each year. 80% of the allocation comes from Exchequer funding and 20% of the funding comes from the local authority's own resources.

The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage is currently reviewing the Housing Adaptation Grants for Older People and People with a Disability Scheme.

**Q.3 COUNCILLOR DERMOT LACEY**

To ask the Chief Executive to state the net benefit to Dublin City Council of the recent changes to the LPT structure and the reduced Government block grant.

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:**

The table below outlines the allocation of LPT funding for the Years 2022 – 2023. It should be noted whilst the equalisation fund was discontinued in 2023, the funding has now transferred to an increase in self-funding of exchequer grants for roads and housing purposes. The net benefit of discretionary funding to Dublin City Council is an increase of €2.989M.

<b>LPT Funding Y2022 &amp; Y2023</b>			
	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>Movement</b>
	€		€
Dublin City LPT - 100%	82,048,235	94,556,845	12,508,610
Equalisation Fund - 20%	16,409,647	-	- 16,409,647
LPT Retained Locally - 80%	65,638,588	94,556,845	28,918,257
Apply LPT Base Rate in 2023	12,307,235	14,183,527	1,876,292
<b>LPT Funding</b>	<b>53,331,353</b>	<b>80,373,318</b>	<b>27,041,966</b>
<b><i>Distribution of LPT Funding</i></b>			
Self Funding - Housing & Roads	30,133,649	54,185,963	24,052,314
Pension Related Deduction (PRD)	16,428,262	16,428,262	-
Historic Funding (General Purpose Grants)	2,667,330	2,667,330	-
Discretionary Funding	4,102,112	7,091,763	2,989,652
	<b>53,331,353</b>	<b>80,373,318</b>	<b>27,041,966</b>

**Q.4 COUNCILLOR DERMOT LACEY**

To ask the Chief Executive if he or any representative of Dublin City Council has engaged with the Department of Sports or other relevant Government Departments about the need for additional pitch provision in the Dublin area.

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:**

The Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media has no lands or influence in relation to the provision of playing fields. The provision of public lands for active recreation is a matter for the local authority through the setting of objectives, actions and land use zonings in the City Development Plan. Lands for active recreation can then be acquired through purchase, Compulsory Purchase Order or by way of planning permissions for residential schemes within which public open space and parkland is provided for active and passive recreation.

**Q.5 COUNCILLOR DECLAN MEENAGH**

To ask the Chief Executive if the Dublin Housing Supply Coordination Task Force could keep track of childcare facilities which are granted planning permission and the number of children they can cater for and the number of these facilities which are actually commenced. To further ask if the manager has data on the number of child care facilities granted permission/built in 2019, 2020 and 2021.

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:**

The purpose of the Housing Taskforce Returns is to capture data on private residential development only for schemes over 10 units. The returns are prepared in accordance with an agreed departmental methodology to produce specific results in the same way from each of the 4 Dublin Local Authorities. The management of the process is rotated between the Dublin Authorities.

To seek inclusion of additional uses would require significant changes to the methodology currently applied and it would not represent a full picture of childcare facilities for the following reasons:

- Many childcare facilities are sought as a single use planning application and not always linked to a resident development. Therefore these facilities would not be

captured if linked to the Housing Taskforce Returns likely resulting with an 'under-reporting' of childcare spaces across the city.

- Some residential development schemes may not be required to provide a childcare facility where it can be demonstrated with evidence, by audit within a planning application, that sufficient places are available within the locality and thus may give an unclear picture of figures for childcare spaces when set against residential housing numbers.

- Childcare facilities granted as part of a scheme may be subject to a change of use on the childcare premises at a later date, where the need for childcare places has fallen or been replaced by other childcare facilities in the area. Such stand-alone applications for change of use would also not be captured by the Housing Returns.

- It cannot be assumed that once childcare premises have commenced/completed become operational premises as other non-planning certification/ licensing is required and can be revoked upon inspections etc. Adding new uses to the Housing Task Returns will undermine the purpose of the Housing Returns; making the preparation of quarterly returns an unwieldy ongoing process, difficult to maintain and manage and at a remove from its original dedicated purpose to little benefit.

It is considered that such a request is not an appropriate means to gather childcare facility information, on the basis that an inaccurate picture would emerge using the Housing Taskforce Returns.

Data on the number of childcare facilities granted permission and commenced is difficult to ascertain as there is no one central location to store such information nor an agreed methodology. As part of the review of how DCC can better support the provision of childcare in the city consideration is being given to how this information can be made available on an ongoing basis. A search of the National Building Control Register under the key words childcare or crèche identified that there were 11 commencements in 2019, 9 in 2020 and 6 in 2021.

**Q.6 COUNCILLOR JOHN LYONS**

To ask the Chief Executive to confirm whether or not the city council is currently in receipt of any goods or services provided by Hewlett-Packard, HP Inc., Hewlett-Packard Enterprise, DXC Technology as HP and DXC.

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:**

Dublin City Council does not have any contract with the companies included in the question. No services are provided.

HP PCs and laptops are provided by a supplier under the national OGP framework for PCs and Laptops. This framework is established, managed, assessed and run by the OGP for the whole of government. It is awarded on a regular basis by mini competition.

**Q.7 COUNCILLOR CHRISTY BURKE**

To ask the Chief Executive that the ongoing leak at the rear at **(details supplied)** be repaired.

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:**

Housing Maintenance has not received any report of a leak at this property. However, a plumber called to investigate it and no leaks were found in the pipework. Regardless,

it has now been given to a roofing contractor to examine and all necessary works will be carried out, if required.

**Q.8 COUNCILLOR CHRISTY BURKE**

To ask the Chief Executive for an update on how many voids are empty in Dublin City housing stock. Could the CEO outline the number of flats, houses and senior complexes that are empty and if they are under repair. When will the stock be ready for letting also could the CEO outline the cost for refurbishment to date?

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:**

**Vacant Property**

<b>Totals by Area</b>	Central	North Central	North West	South Central	South East	Total
House	15	42	51	29	6	143
Apartment	82	10	17	58	57	224
Senior Citizens	34	21	25	28	34	142
<b>Total</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>509</b>

252 of these properties have contractors on-site and are at various stages of completion. It is envisaged that they will be refurbished and re-tenanted between 2-14 weeks.

146 properties are being refurbished through the Council's Direct Labour staff by our Housing Maintenance Local Area Depots. These again are at various stages of completion. It is envisaged that they will be refurbished and re-tenanted between 2-12 weeks.

With the remaining 111 properties we are working with the Area Office to secure full vacant possession or we are compiling the works order before works can be issued to a contractor.

The total capital spend in 2022 so far is €12,676,921.12.

**Q.9 COUNCILLOR CHRISTY BURKE**

To ask the Chief Executive if extra staff have been employed by DCC as GO's given the shortage of staff at some sections at DCC.

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:**

In 2021 an additional 19 General Operatives were recruited and in 2022 an additional 90 General Operatives have been recruited to date. This has allowed significant additional resources at General Operative level to be assigned to the Parks Section, Waste Management Services, Water Services, Drainage, Roads Maintenance and Housing Maintenance during 2022. Additional resources are currently being recruited with appointments due early in 2023.

**Q.10 COUNCILLOR CHRISTY BURKE**

To ask the Chief Executive when the Covid payment will be made to DFB staff for the great work carried out by the women and men at DFB.

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:**

As you will be aware the Government decision on the 19th January 2022 directed the Department of Health to provide special additional financial recognition to those eligible

frontline health care workers based on the particular additional risks they faced in the performance of their normal duty during the pandemic.

As advised by the Department of Health, paramedic staff employed by Dublin Fire Brigade delivering frontline EMS services on behalf of the HSE are eligible for this payment. The 'Pandemic Special Recognition Payment' full value is worth €1,000, free of all taxes.

Payment of this special payment to those eligible personnel was paid on the 17th November.

**Q.11 COUNCILLOR ANTHONY CONNAGHAN**

To ask the Chief Executive to arrange for the refurbishment of the playground in St. Margarets Park Ballymun both equipment and the surface which is in a state of disrepair.

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:**

Dublin City Council have plans under the redevelopment of St. Margaret's to reinstate and refurbish the play area. Dublin City Council will recommence consultations in Q1 2023. In the interim period Dublin City Council will re-inspect and make safe the play area if required.

**Q.12 COUNCILLOR ANTHONY CONNAGHAN**

To ask the Chief Executive to arrange for the white painting along ramps at **(details supplied)**.

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:**

The location will be inspected in the coming days. Any requirement for re-painting will be carried out within 30 working days of the Council meeting on the 5th of December 2022.

Following an investigation, speed ramps were not recommended for **(details supplied)** as it is not DCC policy to provide speed ramps on bends. However, to remind drivers of the 30kph speed limit currently in place on **(details supplied)**, two SLOW road markings have been recommended on both approaches to the bend in question. Ref: 7022521.

On **(details supplied)**, install a worded slow road marking under public lighting standard No. 11, centred in the middle of the road, facing east.

On **(details supplied)**, install a worded slow road marking under public lighting standard No. 13, centred in the middle of the road, facing south.

**Q.13 COUNCILLOR ANTHONY CONNAGHAN**

To ask the Chief Executive to arrange for an inspection of the footpaths at 80 to 114 Cardiffsbridge Road. Residents have requested this section of the road to be addressed for several years but it was left out in recent years when the main section was resurfaced. There are some parts which are in a very poor state and need to be repaired.

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:**

An inspection has been arranged for this location. Defects will be addressed in order of priority and crew availability.

**Q.14 COUNCILLOR ANTHONY CONNAGHAN**

To ask the Chief Executive to arrange for an **(details supplied)** extension to be built.

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:**

Housing Maintenance has not received any report of a leak at this property. However, a plumber called to investigate it and no leaks were found in the pipework. Regardless, it has now been given to a roofing contractor to examine and all necessary works will be carried out, if required.

**Q.15 COUNCILLOR DECLAN MEENAGH**

To ask the Chief Executive what are the number of staff and staff grade in each department of Dublin City Council.

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:**

Please find below a breakdown of the Professional/Technical Staff by department and substantive grade:

**1. Planning and Property Development:**

<b>Analogous Grade Level</b>	<b>Headcount</b>
AG - Senior Professional	11
AG - Senior Executive Technician	3
AG - Senior Executive Professional	26
AG - Executive Technician	2
AG - Executive Professional	44
AG - Chief Technician	1
AG - Assistant Professional	9

**2. Environment and Transportation Department:**

<b>Analogous Grade Level</b>	<b>Headcount</b>
AG - Technician Gr 2	3
AG - Technician Gr 1	10
AG - Senior Professional	20
AG - Senior Executive Technician	13
AG - Senior Executive Professional	58
AG - Lab Tech Gr 2	8
AG - Lab Tech Gr 1	1
AG - Executive Technician	11
AG - Executive Professional	93
AG - Chief Technician	13
AG - Assistant Professional	41



3. Housing and Community Department:

Analogous Grade Level	Headcount
AG - Technician Gr 2	1
AG - Technician Gr 1	1
AG - Senior Professional	7
AG - Senior Executive Technician	3
AG - Senior Executive Professional	22
AG - Executive Professional	49
AG - Chief Technician	3
AG - Assistant Professional	20

4. Dublin Fire Brigade

Analogous Grade Level	Headcount
AG - Senior Professional	4
AG - Senior Executive Professional	12
AG - Executive Professional	19
AG - Assistant Professional	5

5. Corporate Services and Transformation Department

Analogous Grade Level	Headcount
AG - Technician Gr 1	1
AG - Senior Professional	2
AG - Assistant Professional	2

6. Human Resources Department

Analogous Grade Level	Headcount
AG - Senior Executive Professional	4
AG - Executive Professional	9

7. Law Department

Analogous Grade Level	Headcount
AG - Senior Professional	3
AG - Senior Executive Professional	9
AG - Executive Professional	7

8. Culture, Recreation and Economic Services:

Analogous Grade Level	Headcount
AG - Senior Executive Professional	5

<b>AG - Executive Professional</b>	9
<b>AG - Assistant Professional</b>	1

**Q.16 COUNCILLOR ANNE FEENEY**

To ask the Chief Executive what enforcement measures are and will be taken in relation to development who do not comply with the requirement for Childcare facilities given this was a condition of their planning application and what remedies are being sought by the Council where enforcement is not progressed.

There are two such cases in the Harold's Cross area and undoubtedly others across the city. This is not acceptable given a shortage of childcare facilities in the Kimmage Rathmines area generally. Developers who claim 'inability to source a provider' should be required to provide to Planning in DCC, on the lengths that were taken to source a provider and the 'reasonableness' of the tendered leasehold contract for these childcare facilities. Such contracts should not be prohibitive and should be pitched to allow for economic viability of the childcare facility.

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:**

The Councillors observations are noted. The Planning Enforcement Section has recently opened enforcement files in respect of two developments in the Harold's Cross Area relating to possible non-compliance with the planning permission conditions relating to the provision of child care facilities/crèches. Appropriate investigations will take place at the developments concerned and we will write out directly to the Councillor giving her a detailed update once the investigations have concluded.

**Q.17 COUNCILLOR DERMOT LACEY**

To ask the Chief Executive what action can be taken against the HSE for allowing the former Baggot Street Hospital to deteriorate to its present condition under Conservation or Heritage or Dangerous Buildings legislation or indeed any other legislation and if he is prepared to take such action.

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:**

Responsibility for the maintenance and security of a Protected Structure lies with the owner (and occupiers if any) of the building under Section 58 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended); in this case the HSE.

An officer of the City Council's Conservation Section undertook an external inspection of the main, former hospital building on the 18th November 2022 and noted that the buildings has a few maintenance issues to its exterior. A request for an internal inspection will be made to the property owner.

Former Royal City of Dublin Hospital, 14-18 Baggot Street – HSE – Protected Structure.

DB have no historical file on our database currently & no previous DB Inspections / interaction with this premises. A DB Inspector did take a cursory review of the premises as of 18/11/2022 further to receipt of this Cllr. Question.

The DB Inspector found nothing to warrant any DB action, nothing dangerous noted within the meaning of the Local Gov. Sanitary Services Act 1964 (as amended) within which we operate.

**Q.18 COUNCILLOR JANE HORGAN-JONES**

To ask the Chief Executive the following question: Can DCC please elaborate on why they decided not to proceed with a planned purchase of this property (**details supplied**), which would have allowed the occupant to continue as the tenant for life therein? Can DCC also confirm that their Inspector reviewed the extension of (**details supplied**) rather than the neighbouring property in making his or her recommendations against purchasing the property? The occupant is concerned that photographs were taken of the wrong extension.

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:**

The above property was inspected by the Building Inspector assigned to the property Acquisition Section, who deemed this property not suitable for purchase. I can confirm that all images taken were relevant to the inspection and the decision.

**Q.19 COUNCILLOR JANE HORGAN-JONES**

To ask the Chief Executive for a detailed update as to the progress of the water main works/cycleway in the Clontarf/Fairview area, in particular as to the section of works currently being undertaken in the 50metre approximate area on the Clontarf Road leading up to Westwood Gym. Is it anticipated that this section will be completed soon?

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:**

The Contractor on the Clontarf to City Centre Scheme is currently working on the inbound lanes in the area outside of Westwood Gym. There are a considerable number of underground services in the area which makes progress difficult. Night-works have been ongoing at this location since the first week of November in an effort to progress the installation of surface water drainage and the water main. Further works shall be required in the New Year to complete these elements in the Westwood area.

Approximately one week shall also be required in the New Year to complete the road construction, water main and DCC ducting beneath the DART Bridge on the inbound carriageway.

At the bottom of the Howth Road and Malahide Road there are ducting road crossings and full road construction to be undertaken. These works are likely to require several weekend installations in order to complete due to the complexity of the two junctions and extent of works required.

As the Scheme Contractor has completed the installation of the various elements e.g. ducting, water main, cycle track, kerbing and road construction from Alfie Byrne Junction towards town he has opened up the bus lane where possible.

With Operation Open City now in place "out of hours" works are not permitted i.e. night-works and weekend works are not an option for December. It is therefore likely to be springtime before the inbound lanes on the Clontarf Road leading up to Westwood Gym are open. Once the works are completed on the inbound lanes, works are likely to commence on the outbound lanes, with further traffic management installations in the vicinity of Westwood required to facilitate these works.

**Q.20 COUNCILLOR JAMES GEOGHEGAN**

To ask the Chief Executive whether Dublin City Council has requested An Bord Pleanála to re-examine their planning decision bearing reference ABP-309132-21, which overturned certain planning conditions that Dublin City Council had imposed in its original decision; to confirm whether the chief executive or relevant decision maker within the planning department in Dublin City Council is aware that it has been reported that this decision made by An Bord Pleanála involved two board members, one of

whom was Paul Hyde, the brother of the owner of the property which was subject to An Bord Pleanála's decision; if the chief executive has taken any steps to seek advice, or consider, as to whether objective bias was involved in this decision of An Bord Pleanála and to set out what those steps are; if the chief executive can confirm what duties Dublin City Council has as a planning authority when it is either put on notice, or has concerns that an An Bord Pleanála decision which it is bound to implement and enforce, may be tainted by irregularity or objective bias, and specifically how it carried out their duty in this specific instance.

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:**

The question relates to a domestic application (DCC Ref. 3528/20) at 17 Gilford Park, Dublin 4, for a two story extension to the side and rear and a flat roof extension to the rear, together with other on site alterations.

The Planning Authority granted planning permission subject to conditions including Condition 3 which stated;

- a) *The first floor central window to the double height entrance hall shall be amended such that the cill height is no lower than the existing central window and generally aligns with the cills of the windows to the bedrooms either side.*
- b) *The first floor front façade shall be finished with dashed render to match as far as is practicable, the existing dashed render façade.*
- c) *The first floor rear extension containing the master bedroom shall be amended and shall not extend further than 4.5m from the rear building line.*
- d) *The driveway entrance shall be amended to a maximum width of 3.2m in width; and shall not have outward opening gates.*
- e) *Details of the proposed finishes to the dormer to be provided and materials shall harmonise with the existing dwelling.*

Reason: In the interests of orderly development and visual amenity.

Conditions (a) and (c) above were appealed by the applicant. The inspector recommended that Condition (a) be omitted and Condition (c) be retained/included in the final grant.

The Board (Ref. ABP- 309131) determined that both should be omitted from the grant of planning permission. The Board set out its planning reasons for removing Conditions 3(a) and 3(c), in essence that the alteration to the cill level would not be out of keeping with the appearance of the house or street in general, and that the height and length of the proposed two story extension would not result in an overbearing visual impact on the adjacent property to the extent that it would injure the amenities of the neighbouring property, and as such the proposal was deemed by the Board to be in accordance with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

The Planning Department concluded that while the Board arrived at different decision from the Local Authority on the merits of the application, there are no grounds to question the validity of the Boards decision, in relation to due process, the Development Plan or the proper planning and development of the area. As such the City Council has not requested An Bord Pleanála to re-examine its decision in this case. The Chief Executive is fully aware of both press commentary and the various reviews which have been put in place in relation to the Board by the Minister and the DPP. It is not a function of DCC's Planning Department to investigate the internal operations of ABP. ABP continues to carry out the statutory functions assigned to it under the Planning Act 2000 (as amended) and it would be inappropriate for DCC, as a Planning Authority, to comment further.

**Q.21 COUNCILLOR JAMES GEOGHEGAN**

To ask the Chief Executive whether Dublin City Council has carried out its own review of An Bord Pleanála decisions involving Paul Hyde which resulted in changes to Dublin City Council's original planning decisions; if the chief executive can outline how many An Bord Pleanála decisions involving Paul Hyde resulted in changes to planning conditions imposed in Dublin City Council's original decisions; if the chief executive can outline how many An Bord Pleanála decisions involving Paul Hyde resulted in Strategic Housing Developments with planning conditions materially different to those recommended in the chief executives report for those SHDs; if the chief executive could set out in tabular form these planning decisions referred with reference number and addresses.

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:**

According to our records, 120 SHD's have been submitted to An Bord Pleanála since the legislation was introduced. Of these 67 have resulted in Decisions to grant Planning Permissions. An SHD Permission by ABP can include up to 2 dozen planning conditions. An examination of all conditions to ascertain whether there are material differences with the conditions recommended by Dublin City Council would be an exceptionally onerous task as would ascertaining the individual Board members who were involved in Board Directions and Orders.

The City Council has not carried out its own review of ABP decisions involving a named individual. The CE is aware of various reviews which have been put in place by the Minister and the DPP, and as such it would be inappropriate for DCC as Planning Authority to investigate a named individual from the Board.

**Q.22 COUNCILLOR RACHEAL BATTEN**

To ask the Chief Executive to provide details of all housing projects over the last 5 years that were contracted by the council where there was a delay of more than 4 weeks on the contracted agreed completion.

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:**

This question is being considered in association with Questions 23, 24 & 25. With Councillor Batten's agreement, the response is deferred until the January Council Meeting.

**Q.23 COUNCILLOR RACHEAL BATTEN**

To ask the Chief Executive to provide details of their standard legal delay clauses in housing development contracts, along with details of any consequences that are in the contract for not meeting the standard as set out in the contract,

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:**

This question is being considered in association with Questions 22, 24 & 25. With Councillor Batten's agreement, the response is deferred until the January Council Meeting.

**Q.24 COUNCILLOR RACHEAL BATTEN**

To ask the Chief Executive in cases of Housing projects in the last 5 years where the project was not delivered on time or on budget what is financial implication to the contracts.

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:**

This question is being considered in association with Questions 22, 24 & 25. With Councillor Batten's agreement, the response is deferred until the January Council Meeting.

**Q.25 COUNCILLOR RACHEAL BATTEN**

To ask the Chief Executive that where there are contractors that have been involved in providing defective properties, what action does the council take to ensure that the council does not enter into a new contract with that same contractor.

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:**

This question is being considered in association with Questions 22, 24 & 25. With Councillor Batten's agreement, the response is deferred until the January Council Meeting.

**Q.26 COUNCILLOR JAMES GEOGHEGAN**

To ask the Chief Executive having regard to Condition No. 7. (b) of Planning Application No. 3351/20 if I could be provided with all correspondence, in relation to the "revised Servicing Management Plan" referred to therein and the agreement and compliance thereof by Dublin City Council, specifically with regards to delivery vehicles and refuse collection, to include meeting notes & minutes, representations, reports and any other related documentation between Dublin City Council and the applicant / the applicant's advisors.

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:**

Planning Compliances are a matter of public record and are in the public domain. The records requested in relation to the Revised Service Management Plan can be viewed at the following link Citizen Portal Planning ([agileapplications.ie](http://agileapplications.ie)) - search under Planning Reference 3351/20Sub02.

**Q.27 COUNCILLOR DERMOT LACEY**

To ask the Chief Executive if he will ensure that a reply is issued to the citizen Customer Reference 11124002 and copied to this Councillor before the end of November.

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:**

Winton Road, Leeson Park and Northbrook Road will be inspected and put forward for consideration for inclusion in upcoming Footpath Renewal Programmes as appropriate.

**Q.28 COUNCILLOR NOELEEN REILLY**

To ask the Chief Executive why are DCC now doing virtual inspections of private Properties and how many have been done to date and how does this compare to Physical Inspections.

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:**

The Environmental Health Section of Dublin City Council enforces legislation in relation to the area of minimum standards in private rented houses. Inspections of private rented accommodation are carried out either physically (in person) or virtually. Any non-conformances with the Legislation are addressed to the Landlord for remediation. This is then pursued to ensure compliance.

At present Dublin City Council operates both a physical inspection system and also a virtual inspection system. There are two types of virtual inspection offered – an online form that a landlord or agent can complete and return or a live streaming inspection with a tenant.

With the online form, there are three important elements to be met before this can be counted as an inspection – the completed form is returned, the requested photographs

are returned and the tenant is engaged with and given an opportunity to bring any concerns to the Councils attention. If any of these elements is not available, a physical inspection takes place. If the tenant raises concerns about the condition of the property, a physical inspection may be scheduled.

With the Live streaming inspections, these appointments are made directly with the tenant. Should they raise any concerns at scheduling stage, a physical inspection is scheduled instead. With this type of inspection the tenant uses their mobile device to show us around their home and point out any areas of concern to them and show areas of particular interest to the Environmental Health Officer.

To ensure that the system works, physical inspections of 11% of properties deemed compliant on virtual inspection between Q2 2020 and end Q4 2021 have been carried out by Environmental Health Officers. Of these, 72% of properties were found to match the information provided on virtual inspection. Further enforcement action is taken in cases of properties found not to have provided accurate information on virtual inspection.

Between Q1 - Q3 2022 a total of 5,390 inspections have been carried out, of which 466 are virtual inspections and 4,924 have been physical inspections.

**Q.29 COUNCILLOR NOELEEN REILLY**

To ask the Chief Executive for an update on all the Depot sites and when they will be ready for housing.

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:**

The Housing Department is progressing delivery across the following depot sites.

**PPP Programme – Three Depot Sites**

- Stanley Street, DFB Depot
- Forbes Lane, Roads Depot
- Collins Avenue, Roads & Waste Mgt Depot

The above three sites have been approved for PPP housing delivery by the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage, as three of the eight sites included in the National Social Housing PPP Bundle 4 programme. The appointment of the Design Team in December 2022 for PPP Bundle 4 is the next key project milestone. The expected completion date for all three sites is Q3 2026.

**AHB Housing Delivery Depot sites**

Gulistan Depot – Cluid Housing have carried out feasibility and initial design on this site with current indications that the site may deliver 140+ units of older persons social and cost rental housing. A public information event is currently under way in Rathmines Library, and Cluid are preparing to submit planning Q1 2023. With a substantial completion date of Q4 2025.

Broombridge Rd Depot – Tuath Housing are at pre planning stage. With initial design indicating 20+ units of older persons housing. Planning to be lodged Q1 2023 with a completion date of Q1 2025.

Orchard Road Depot - Fold Housing are at detailed design stage with the intention of submitting planning by the end of April 2023 for 30+ units of older persons housing. Substantial completion Q1 2025.

Portland Row Depot – Truth Housing are at early design and feasibility stage. Next stage will be community consultation and design development in advance of submitting planning by the Q2 2023, early indications are that this site may deliver 50+ units of housing. Completion of scheme expected 2026.

**Q.30 COUNCILLOR NOELEEN REILLY**

To ask the Chief Executive for an update on the redevelopment of Kildonan Park.

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:**

Park, Biodiversity and Landscape services has obtained a Part 8 planning approval and provision has been made in our Capital programme 2023-2025 for its implementation. Works are ongoing to develop a tender package for construction stage.

**Q.31 COUNCILLOR NOELEEN REILLY**

To ask the Chief Executive for details of Fire Service personal and understaffing, and how many applied in the latest campaign.

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:**

Dublin Fire Brigade take the Health and Safety of their crews and public very seriously and as such the daily operations of Dublin Fire Brigade is managed carefully by a dedicated mobilisation officer in conjunction with the Assistant Chief Fire Officer (ACFO) of Operations. They endeavour to ensure maximum crewing on a daily basis. There are occasions whereby we are unable to meet the maximum crewing levels despite offering staff overtime, again this is managed pragmatically by the mobilisation officer to ensure fire appliances are crewed.

Under the auspices of Kevin Duffy Dublin Fire Brigade Management and the trade unions are currently navigating through an agreement reached earlier this year regarding staffing and efficiencies in DFB.

DFB management are committed to the terms of this agreement and continue to work with the trade unions to achieve a successful outcome.

Below is an up to date position regarding the on-boarding of recruits on 2022.

- Recruit class 01/2021 consisting of 35 recruits, are operational from January 2022
- 45 recruits, class 01/2022 are operational from 1<sup>st</sup> November
- A further 30 recruits, Class 02/2022 are operational from 21<sup>st</sup> November
- A new recruitment campaign for Fire Fighters was launched with a closing date of 18<sup>th</sup> November 2022, 4786 applications were received. A new panel will be formed to fill future vacancies during the lifetime of the panel.

We will strive to ensure an active panel of recruits is available to us to fill vacancies as they arise of the coming years.

Dublin Fire Brigade management are in constant contact with union representatives and staff regarding staffing issues to provide them with an up to date position on current manning levels.

**Q.32 COUNCILLOR JAMES GEOGHEGAN**

To ask the Chief Executive if he can explain how works carried out on the pavements on Upper Mount Pleasant Avenue, which were kindly carried out in late September,



could have been undone and dug up again, as per photos attached, in late October and whether a job to fix that subsequent patch up job will be carried out.

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:**

Please be advised that Road Maintenance Services has been in communication with Irish Water on November 23rd, 2022 with regard to work carried out by Irish Water at address specified. Road Maintenance Services has notified Irish Water to ensure works are carried out to address the issue.

**Q.33 COUNCILLOR JANE HORGAN-JONES**

To ask the Chief Executive this motion was passed by the NCAC previously (below). However, the resident who had been campaigning for this recently got a letter advising her that the proposal had been rejected. Please can the CEO explain the reasons for this and also agree that as per the wishes of the NCAC, a permanent public memorial of this nature will be established without further delay?

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:**

The NCAC motion (4612) referred to dates back to 2013. At its meeting of 21st November 2022 the Arts, Culture, Leisure & Recreation SPC considered a motion from the NCAC that a Dublin City Council Commemorative Plaque 'be placed on the wall of the Oratory - Church of the Resurrection (on the park side) to commemorate the boys who are buried there and who died while incarcerated in the Artane Industrial School'. This motion was referred by the SPC to the Commemorations & Naming Committee and it is on the agenda for the meeting of the Committee scheduled for 1st December.

**Q.34 COUNCILLOR MÁIRE DEVINE**

To ask the Chief Executive that the gullies in front of the shops in Rialto Village and those in Herberton Park be cleared to prevent ponding and allow rainwater drain properly.

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:**

The shops in front of Rialto Village and those in Herberton Park were cleaned on the 24th November with 5 of 5 Gullies Cleaned and inspected.

**Q.35 COUNCILLOR MÁIRE DEVINE**

To ask the Chief Executive that the footpaths within the Maryland estate, D8 be assessed and the recommendations be included in next year's work schedule.

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:**

The footpaths in the Maryland Estate will be inspected and will be put forward for consideration for inclusion in our future Footpath Renewal Programmes as appropriate.

**Q.36 COUNCILLOR MÁIRE DEVINE**

To ask the Chief Executive, following the positive response given by Minister Chambers to Aengus O Snodaigh TD's re provision of an All Weather Multi-Purpose Pitch at Marrowbone Lane, D8, can the funding be applied for from Dormant Accounts as advised by the Minister in Dáil debate on 8th November last.

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:**

The Marrowbone Lane area was the subject of Variation 6 of the Dublin City Development Plan 2016-2022 in February 2019 to provide for the consolidation of the City Council depot and the regeneration of the wider depot area following public consultation. The Zoning for the Marrowbone Lane Depot sites was changed following the Motions stage of the Development Plan 2022-2028 to Z9 (open space) for the main

depot and to the rear of St. Catherine's Sports Centre, with a small Z14 (mixed use) area on the Summer Street frontage. However, the City Council retains the benefit of the current use of the depot site until such time as they are relocated and plans for the future redevelopment of the sites are considered. The redevelopment of the depot site is some time away and therefore it would be premature to seek funding via Dormant Accounts or any other mechanism as they would be time limited and the City Council would not be in a position to progress a Pitch development at this time.

**Q.37 COUNCILLOR MÁIRE DEVINE**

To ask the Chief Executive that the conservation section attend to the necessary repair of the historic landmark 11th century Old Dublin City wall at Lamb Alley, Liberties please.

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:**

In response to repeated complaints from a member of the public to both the City Council and the National Monuments Service regarding excessive buddleia growth on the walls at Lamb Alley and Cook Street, the South Central Area Office initiated and led on the treatment of these sections of the City Walls for buddleia growth in 2021 and 2022.

The Cornmarket /Lamb Alley section of wall was treated in October 2021, while the more substantial Cook Street section was treated in April of this year. This involved cutting back the buddleia to stumps and applying a topical herbicide (called eco tabs) to the more substantial stumps. The contractor was back on site from Thursday, 10th November to repeat this treatment.

Unfortunately given the invasive nature of buddleia and the condition of the wall on Cook Street (where there is a divide of rough masonry between the original wall and the more recent castellated addition along the top), the wall will remain prone to this type of growth. It is unlikely that it can be fully eradicated. Buddleia is pervasive in the city, grows vigorously in our damp climate and seeds so easily. In this instance one can only continue this type of treatment, unless more substantial repointing or masonry work is considered for the wall.

The walls are a monument and would qualify for a Community Monument Fund (CMF) grant application; due for submission in February 2023. The CMF team have a meeting to discuss potential DCC projects on 8 December and to agree to priority sites. The City Archaeologist will nominate the walls for the priority list.

**Q.38 COUNCILLOR PAT DUNNE**

To ask the Chief Executive to examine the footpath outside **(details supplied)**. The resident reports that the path is sinking and moving away from his adjoining drive-in. This is also causing cracks in the front garden wall which adjoins his neighbour's garden.

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:**

We carried out an inspection at **(details supplied)**. It was not apparent that there is any subsidence in the public footpath. The tilt in the garden wall pillar would suggest that there may be uplift pressure on the private driveway slab.

**Q.39 COUNCILLOR PAT DUNNE**

To ask the Chief Executive the following: The base of the trunk of a young tree outside 9 Kildare Road is weakening and curtailing its growth. Can the Parks Section re-secure this tree?

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:**

The tree and stake at the above location has been secured.

**Q.40 COUNCILLOR PAT DUNNE**

To ask the Chief Executive the following: the tree outside (**details supplied**) is overgrown with branches growing over adjoining gardens, can our Parks Section have this tree pruned over the winter season.

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:**

Parks staff have pruned the tree at the above location.

**Q.41 COUNCILLOR MÍCHEÁL MAC DONNCHA**

To ask the Chief Executive if he will:

1. Set out the terms of the agreement between the Dublin City Council executive and Pembroke Property Developments/Derryroe regarding proceedings on 22 November 2022 in the Dublin District Court on the illegal demolition of the historic house and protected structure 40 Herbert Park, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4;
2. State why no action was taken on foot of the commencement of the process of assessment of the building for inclusion on the Record of Protected Structures by vote of the Elected Members prior to the demolition, of which demolition the executive of Dublin City Council had advance notice from the company;
3. The implications of this course of action by the executive for other protected structures in the City, if the executive refuses to recognise the vote of the Elected Members as the commencement of the process of assessment for inclusion in the Record of Protected Structures, during which time the structure is deemed protected pending a final decision on inclusion on the Record or otherwise.

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:**

1. There was no agreement between the Dublin City Council executive and Pembroke Property Developments/Derryroe regarding proceedings on the 22nd of November 2022.

There seems to be some confusion relating to this court case. In the interest of clarification the case before the courts was a prosecution in respect of the carrying out of unauthorised development, under Section 151 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). The specific breach that was being prosecuted was in respect of commencing works on site pursuant to a SHD planning permission granted for redevelopment of the site for 105 apartments, which included the demolition of No. 40 Herbert Park. There were a number of compliance submissions that were required to be approved pursuant to conditions laid out by An Bord Pleanála in advance of development commencing on site. Whilst a number of these submissions had been lodged in advance of the developer commencing works on site they had not been formally approved by Dublin City Council at that time. As soon as the Planning Enforcement Section became aware that works had commenced in the absence of approval of the pre commencement compliance conditions the Planning Enforcement Officer for the area attended the site and instructed that all works on site cease. This was immediately followed up with the service of an enforcement notice under Section 154 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) requiring the cessation of all works until all relevant conditions had been complied with. These requirements were complied with.

A prosecution was also initiated in respect of commencing work on site in the absence of the agreement of the compliance conditions concerned. This was what the

prosecution that was heard on the 22nd of November 2022 in the District Court related to.

The hearing of this case had been delayed for almost two years due to both the unsuccessful High/Supreme Court challenge taken by third parties against the validity of the An Bord Pleanála decision, as well as backlogs in the District Court system as a result of the Covid 19 pandemic. In the meantime all relevant compliance submissions have been assessed by Dublin City Council and have been approved in connection with the proposed development.

It would be well beyond the reasonable powers of the Planning Enforcement Section to require the rebuilding of a structure that has permission in place to be demolished, particularly in the circumstances where any outstanding issues relating to the planning permission and associated conditions have been resolved. The High and Supreme Courts have already upheld the general validity of the planning permission in place. Planning Enforcement action must be proportionate in nature and the initiation of legal proceedings to secure the rebuilding of the property given the terms outlined above would not be proportionate or viable.

In advance of the Court case being heard on the 22nd of November 2022 it was indicated to Dublin City Council's solicitors that one of the Defendant's, namely Pembroke Place Developments Limited were taking responsibility for the offence before the Court and it was their intention to plead guilty to the offence, namely the carrying out of development pursuant to a SHD planning permission granted, in the absence of approval of a number of pre commencement compliance conditions. For clarity this is what constituted the offence under Section 151.

The case was brought before the Court for hearing on the 22nd of November. Solicitors for the Defendant's indicated at the outset there would be a plea entered and the matter was listed in the uncontested (by defendant) list. It is for the Judge to hear the evidence in a case before him/her and for him/her to come to a decision on that basis. The Court's practice is to hear summary of the offence and the circumstances/facts involved. Once a plea has been entered the Council have no role in the prosecution other than providing the Court with the facts and circumstances of the offence. There is no scope for any "deal" to be done between a defendant and the City Council as the decision making associated with the case rests with the Judge and outside both the hands of the City Council as prosecutor and the defendant in the case. For the purposes of clarity, the sanctions that can be imposed, whether that be a fine, charitable donation, costs or any other ancillary Order are solely at the discretion of the presiding judge.

In this case the Judge heard the detailed evidence on behalf of the City Council as well as the mitigation outlined by the defendant's Solicitor. He noted the early plea and the corporate nature of the Defendant. The Judge ordered full payment of the City Council's costs which are agreed and also payment of €3,000.00 to the Little Flower Penny Dinners. On payment of same he indicated he would apply Section 1.1 of the Probation Act. The Court specifically commended the work of the City Council and the Planning Enforcement Office. Judge Halpin stated it was a thoroughly prepared prosecution, however in this instance the Court did not see fit to convict and fine the Defendant as it was a first offence.

2. It is not the case that no action was taken on foot of the motion agreed by City Council on the 11th May 2020, requesting that the building be added to the record of protected structures. The Council's Conservation Section requested the owner/occupier to facilitate access to the building to carry out a site inspection. The owner/occupier by reply dated 24th June 2020 stated they wanted confirmation that

the Council does not intend to interfere in the SHD process (an SHD application to An Bord Pleanála had been submitted on the 20th May 2020). On 2nd September, a further letter was sent out from DCC seeking access to inspect the property. On 8th September An Bord Pleanála granted permission for 105 Units on the site, subject to compliance with certain planning conditions. On the 15th September 2020, a Commencement Notice was validated by DCC Building Control (note this does not circumvent any requirement request to comply with Planning conditions). No. 40 was demolished on the 20th Sept, and a planning enforcement notice was issued on 2nd October, resulting in the recent sanction by the Courts on the owners.

The sequence of events shows that the Council had no reason to suspect that the Planning Conditions would not be complied with and was still awaiting for the opportunity to inspect the property to prepare an evidence based Conservation Assessment, particularly given that the SHD application included expert opinion that the building did not merit adding to the RPS, and to counter any insinuation that the Council had prejudiced the matter. It is perhaps unfortunate that requests to add the building to the RPS had not been made when previous occupiers were in control of the premises.

3. The CE did accept that the motion passed by the Elected Members provided grounds to seek access to the building, externally and internally, in order to provide a robust, evidence based assessment of the structure which together with any academic research and expertise would stand up to legal scrutiny at which point the CE would decide whether the building should become a proposed protected structure. The vast majority of owners /occupiers facilitate access by the Conservation Section upon request. It is unfortunate that adding buildings to the Record of Protected Structures is often perceived to be a burden rather than a positive opportunity. In future the CE may consider referring the matter to the Courts to gain access if warranted.

**Q.42 COUNCILLOR MÍCHEÁL MAC DONNCHA**

To ask the Chief Executive the current status of Kilbarrack Community Hall, Greendale Road, Kilbarrack, Dublin 5, the terms of the lease involved, and if he will set out any recent discussions held with leaseholders or others regarding the future of the hall.

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:**

Dublin City Council granted a lease dated 17th November 1975 for a site at Thornville Road (now known as Greendale Road), Kilbarrack to Kilbarrack & District Community Association for a term of 99 years from 13th November 1975 at an abated rent of €33.01 per annum for the purpose of building a community centre.

By letter dated 9th January 2014, Dublin City Council consented to the creation of a sublease by KADCA in favour of Kilbarrack Coast Community Programme Limited (KCCP) for a term of 20 years from 28th July 2012 for part of the premises for use as a drug treatment aftercare centre.

The Property Management Section and the Local Area Office have not been involved in discussions regarding the future of the premises with the Lessee.

**Q.43 COUNCILLOR JOE COSTELLO**

To ask the Chief Executive if he will instruct all utilities to replace cobblestones and granite kerbs when carrying out work on footpaths and streets and to provide DCC with a report certifying that this has been done. Although they are obliged to do this by law there have been a number of incidents in Central Area where cobbles/kerbs were not restored.

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:**

Utility companies excavating antique paving such as kerbs and cobbles are required to contact the superintendent in The Infrastructure Management Unit in Road Maintenance Services (RMS) and advise him of their intention lift heritage material and agree on the storage and reinstatement requirements. This requirement is a condition of all utility licences to open the road and utilities are aware of this. Utilities are also required to return the paving materials to the RMS depot and notify the IMU, via T5 of the temporary reinstatement for permanent reinstatement by RMS crews. To ensure that the correct process is being adhered to a reminder has been issued to all utilities.

**Q.44 COUNCILLOR JOE COSTELLO**

To ask the Chief Executive if DCC has plans to provide modular homes to meet the City's housing needs as indicated by **(details supplied)**.

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:**

DCC has delivered housing projects using 'modular' or 'system-build' approaches. Following a pilot 'modular' project in 2016 (22 terraced houses in Poppintree Dublin 11), a further 220 terraced houses were delivered on 7 sites between 2017 and 2019. The majority of DCC housing sites demand higher density apartments which are more complex to design and construct than individual or terraced houses (notably, the 'Therma House' example given is a single-storey detached house). System-build approaches also require significant contractor off-site manufacturing capacity and design input.

DCC investigated the construction sector's potential to deliver 'modular' apartments in 2018. This process resulted in the 'Volumetric' programme whereby projects were tendered as 'Design and Build' contracts with **contractors maximising the use of system-build / offsite solutions**. There are four apartment developments currently underway following this tender (Volumetric Bundle 1). These are at Bonham Street Dublin 8 (57 apartments), Springvale Chapelizod (71 apartments and Community Hall), Cork Street Dublin 8 (77 apartments) and Bunratty Road Coolock (64 apartments and 14 houses). These projects have not delivered the expected advantages over traditional 'Employer Design' contracts. DCC is therefore re-evaluating the optimum approach for projects currently at advanced design stage which had been previously earmarked as 'system-build' (Volumetric Bundles 2 and 3) and will likely tender as 'Employer Design' contracts.

**Q.45 COUNCILLOR JOE COSTELLO**

To ask the Chief Executive if he is aware of the threats to biodiversity in the City from the introduction of the new brighter LED lights as outlined by **(details supplied)**.

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:**

The City Council is aware that some initial studies indicate that LED light sources may have a very small impact on Biodiversity when compared with standard conventional light sources such as high pressure sodium and low pressure sodium light sources. The City Council is keeping a watchful eye on any studies or research that may be undertaken in this area in order to gain a full understanding of what effects, if any, LED lights may have on Biodiversity.

One area where it is well known that LEDs, and other, artificial light sources do have an impact on is on some species of Bats. This is well documented and there is a code of practice providing guidance on minimising the impact of artificial lighting on bats that the City Council follows.

In the meantime the City Council ensures that all LED lights installed in Dublin City comply with photo-biological safety standards and best practise in the industry. In its upcoming Lighting Upgrade Project very careful consideration has been given to the selection and specification of LED luminaires, to ensure that the upgraded lighting lights will meet the required light levels in the first place, only lighting the areas that require lighting whilst minimising light spill and light pollution. A team of specialist street lighting designers will be designing the lighting on a street by street basis in the Upgrade Project to ensure best practice is followed.

Also the use of warmer colour temperature 3000 kelvin LED light sources by the City Council will be widespread throughout the city in the Upgrade Project thereby reducing the 'blue light' content in the light spectrum. In addition a Central Management System will be deployed in the project that will allow for further control of the lighting.

The City Council is committed to continue to follow best practice in the industry and to use all the technological tools available to it to do its part in maintaining and protecting Biodiversity in the city.

**Q.46 COUNCILLOR JOE COSTELLO**

To ask the Chief Executive if it is possible to get a breakdown of the performance of each of the Area Committees in Dublin in fulfilling its local mandate from the National Oversight and Audit Commission (2021).

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:**

Dublin City Council reports annually on a range of Performance Indicators to the National Oversight and Audit Commission. There are 87 individual indicators across 11 themes all of which are currently reported at city level. Some of the datasets are provided by external organisations directly to the LGMA and NOAC. The process for reporting on indicators generally commences in February of each year and concludes at the end of April.

The Dublin City Council Service Delivery Plan reports on the service performance of 28 principal services, which the City Council provides to the public and to businesses, as part of the Chief Executive's Management Report on a quarterly basis.

The Corporate Services & Transformation Department will work to identify which, if any, of the NOAC Performance Indicators and the indicators in the Annual Service Delivery Plan can be captured and reported on at Area Committee level in 2023.

**Q.47 COUNCILLOR DEIRDRE CRONIN**

To ask the Chief Executive to clarify the criteria for inclusion on the exceptional social grounds application for a transfer.

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:**

A priority under the Exceptional Social Grounds scheme will only be recommended in cases where the social circumstances relating to an applicant's housing need are considered to be of an extremely serious nature. In order to prioritise applicants with the most urgent need a designated staff member from the Social Work Section examines all of the written evidence submitted by the applicant and makes a judgement whether the circumstances, as described, meets all of the following criteria:

- the circumstances relating to where the applicant lives are extremely difficult and significantly more urgent in comparison with other housing and transfer applicants and

- The circumstances are proven to be exceptional e.g. not commonly experienced by others or experienced by others in the general area where the applicant lives and
- The applicant's difficulty can only be resolved by a change of housing and
- That change of housing cannot be, or could not have been, sourced by any other means and
- The issue cannot be catered for /addressed under any other Scheme or potentially improved by intervention from another appropriate agency.

**Q.48 COUNCILLOR DEIRDRE CRONIN**

To ask the Chief Executive to clarify if any request has been made to Kilmainham Gardaí for a report on anti-social activities at Kings House, Bow Lane West apartments; if Kilmainham gardaí have confirmed such incidents and the number of incidents involved?

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:**

Dublin City Council appear to have no tenancies in Kings House, Bow Lane West, Kilmainham, therefore would have no records of any anti-social incidents in this area.

**Q.49 COUNCILLOR DEIRDRE CRONIN**

To ask the Chief Executive to provide copies of all correspondence:

- (i) between DCC and Keenan Property Management Company in relation to the basement car park facility at Metropolitan apartments in Inchicore Road
- (ii) sent by Dublin Fire Brigade to Keenan Property Management company in relation to fire and safety issues at Metropolitan Apartments, Inchicore Road.

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:**

DFB continues to liaise with the Owners' Management Company of the Metropolitan apartments regarding fire safety issues in this property. Fire Officers from our Fire Prevention Section carried out inspections at the above premises where serious fire safety breaches were noted.

This is an open ongoing case and DFB are unable to disclose the information requested as it is part of enforcement processes and proceedings.

We continue to work with the OMC and their representatives, we respectively suggest that the OMC is best placed to secure this information.

We will continue to engage and advise the OMC regarding the measures necessary to upgrade the building to a satisfactory level of fire safety.

**Q.50 COUNCILLOR COLM O'ROURKE**

To ask the Chief Executive if Dublin City Council have and could supply maps of **(details supplied)**.

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:**

After much research we have been unable to find any definitive boundary dividing the areas of **(details supplied 1)**.

There is an official Townland of **(details supplied 2)** but this area is located outside of the DCC admin area. Just to the west of the **(details supplied 2)** Train station (which is just inside the DCC boundary). Map can be provided if required.

We have also checked the Property Registration Authority with regard to properties registered within the **(details supplied 1)** area and none of the addresses listed



contain **(details supplied 2)** or **(details supplied 3)**. They all contain the Dublin **(details supplied 4)** listing.

We have also checked the **(details supplied 2)** - **(details supplied 3)** LAP from 2014 and can find no boundary between the areas listed or mapped within the document.

The District Electoral Divisions within the area make no reference to **(details supplied 3)**.

We can provide a map of the area in question based on the most recent base map issued by the Ordnance Survey (Q2 – 2022) if required.

**Q.51 COUNCILLOR COLM O’ROURKE**

To ask the Chief Executive when the pedestrian crossing I requested previously at **(details supplied)** will be installed? Construction of this controlled pedestrian crossing was expected to begin in the third or fourth quarter of 2022.

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE’S REPLY:**

There has indeed been a delay due to staffing issues and the loss of a number of staff, however we now have this pedestrian crossing included in a package of four pedestrian crossings to be tendered together and it is expected that a contractor will be appointed early January. Once a detailed programme has been agreed with the contractor an update on the commencement and completion date for the crossing will be provided.

**Q.52 COUNCILLOR COLM O’ROURKE**

To ask the Chief Executive to ensure that **(details supplied)** is being sufficiently monitored, and to introduce a suite of measures to prevent the problem from happening - including to reconsider the decision of Dublin City Council to not erect additional metal bollards on the footpaths in this location.

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE’S REPLY:**

Dublin City Council seek to keep footpaths as clear of signage poles, bollards and guardrails as possible in order to not obstruct, constrain pedestrian movement.

Under the Road Traffic (Traffic and Parking) Regulations, Section 36, a vehicle shall not be parked: “( i ) on a footway, a grass margin or a median strip.” Dublin City Council doesn’t provide parking restrictions, where it’s already restricted by the law. It is therefore, not recommended to install additional metal bollards at the locations mentioned.

Any instances of illegal parking should be reported to the Gardaí or Dublin Street Parking Services (DSPS) 01-602-2500 or Email: info@dsps.ie, as it is a matter for enforcement under the Road Traffic Regulations.

**Q.53 COUNCILLOR COLM O’ROURKE**

To ask the Chief Executive that the trees be pruned at **(details supplied)**.

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE’S REPLY:**

Parks services have **(details supplied)** streets included in on our large tree maintenance schedule and are due for pruning during our 2023 Tree pruning programme. All tree works are carried out on a prioritised basis, subject to available budget.

**Q.54 COUNCILLOR DANIEL CÉITINN**

To ask the Chief Executive for an update on the development of the IGB site and relevant talks and negotiations; if he expects a resolution shortly; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:**

Dublin City Council and the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage are continuing discussions with the developer of the Glass Bottle to ensure compliance with the planning conditions in the SDZ as it relates to the 10% Part V social and 15% Social/Affordable Housing requirements. These discussions have been more difficult by the rapid rise in construction and general inflation. However the Council are committed to continuing efforts to secure the 25% public housing units and to ensure value for money for the state. When discussions advance we will inform the Area councillors immediately.

**Q.55 COUNCILLOR DANIEL CÉITINN**

To ask the Chief Executive for an update on the regeneration of Pearse House; when he expected decanting to begin; if he has a plan in place or is developing a plan to decant the relevant phase 1 flats; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:**

Dublin City Council has received Stage 1 approval from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) for the first phase of the regeneration of Pearse House, Dublin 2.

The approved regeneration proposal involves the full deep retrofit and amalgamation of existing flats in Blocks L, M, N and P also known as the "Small Flats". As Pearse House is a protected structure, the integrated design team will include a conservation architect.

The tender assessment for the procurement of an integrated design team is complete and appointment of the successful tenderer is expected shortly. Once the design team is appointed, they will develop and finalise a design to bring to Part 8 planning permission. Consultation with the local community and elected members will involve the design team sharing their design proposals as they progress.

Detenancing priority status will be awarded on receipt of Stage 2 approval from the DHLGH.

**Q.56 COUNCILLOR DANIEL CÉITINN**

To ask the Chief Executive for an update on the St Andrews Court regeneration; if new agreements have been made; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:**

Dublin City Council received Stage 1 approval from the Department of Heritage, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) for the regeneration of St Andrews Court. Subsequently, an integrated design team were appointed to progress the design of the new housing scheme towards planning lodgement. The proposal is for the demolition of the existing housing block and the construction of 32 new homes.

The initiation of the pre-Part 8 Circulation of Layout under the Part 8 Planning and Development Regulations 2001 process was noted at the June South East Area Committee. Following the submission of the Stage 2 application to the DHLGH, DCC was requested to provide additional information, which now forms the basis of ongoing discussions.

Upon receipt of DHLGH Stage 2 approval, the Part 8 planning application will be lodged.

**Q.57 COUNCILLOR DANIEL CÉITINN**

To ask the Chief Executive for an update regarding plans to tackle anti-social behaviour affecting City Quay; if he will arrange for periodic closing of the pedestrian bridge outside of commuting hours as sought by the local community; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:**

I wish to suggest that this is a matter for An Garda Síochána and I do not recommend the closing of Sean 'O Casey Bridge for any period, as a solution to the anti-social behaviour in the vicinity of the bridge.

Both the South East and Central Area Offices are working proactively on the Bridge Project led by An Garda Síochána from Pearse Street and Store Street Stations, together with Swan Youth Services and St. Andrew's Resource Centre to tackle the anti-social behaviour affecting the City Quay / Samuel Beckett Bridge area over the last few months. Both An Garda Síochána and the Youth Services are liaising closely and have visited local schools, the youth services / JLO's are engaging on a number of different levels with individuals involved, work is ongoing on the provision of diversionary projects for young people in the area, the City Council has arranged for the trees on City Quay to be pruned and we have requested that the public lighting be improved. We are also being supported by a group in Belfast who have experience of dealing with conflict from both sides of the divide. Work will continue intensively on this project and Councillors will be kept fully informed. The South East Area Office is also working closely with the residents of City Quay with plans to enhance the public realm and our community team has been assisting with events over Halloween and Christmas. There are no plans to close the Sean O'Casey Bridge which is used by many people not involved in ASB to cross the Liffey at this location.

**Q.58 COUNCILLOR MICHAEL WATTERS**

To ask the Chief Executive to install additional traffic calming measures in the Walkinstown Drive, Dublin 12 area.

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:**

Walkinstown Drive is a 30kph Slow Zone. There are traffic calming measures already installed on the road such as speed ramps and yield signs at junctions.

The Area Engineer observed on site visits that there was a lot of illegal parking on Walkinstown Drive, for example, parking on the footpath. Illegal parking is one of the contributory factors to speeding. If vehicles parked legally on the road it would calm traffic because drivers would slow down to navigate around the parked vehicles. To report illegal parking contact the local Garda Síochána or Dublin Street Parking Services ([www.dsps.ie](http://www.dsps.ie)) at 01 602 2500 or [info@dsps.ie](mailto:info@dsps.ie) for enforcement.

The most effective way to motivate people in the long-term to park legally, and thus reduce speeds, is for the residents to apply for a Pay & Display and Permit parking scheme

<https://www.dublincity.ie/residential/parking-dublin-city-centre/start-parking-scheme>

For Dublin City Council to consider installing a scheme, the residents of Walkinstown Drive are required to submit a petition with greater than 35% in favour of the scheme.

**Q.59 COUNCILLOR MICHAEL WATTERS**

To ask the Chief Executive to provide an update on the application for a Neurodiversity parking space outside Gents Barbers, 203 Tyrconnell Road, Inchicore, Dublin 8.

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:**

The three parking spaces in front of 203 Tyrconnell Road, Inchicore are on a private landing and the spaces have dished access to the public road.

Dublin City Council is not in charge of these spaces. It would require that the public representative apply to the owner of said property to see if any arrangement could be recommended.

There is also a bus lane in operation  
(Monday – Saturday 07:00 -10:00 16:00 – 19:00).

Outside of these hours a vehicle could park in front of the 203 Tyrconnell Road, Inchicore if they have consent from the owner.

Dublin City Council supports the concept of neurodiversity to make accommodations for neurodiverse families, but this location is not suitable as it is on an active travel route and on a future Bus Connect route.

**Q.60 COUNCILLOR MICHAEL WATTERS**

To ask the Chief Executive to implement a 30kph speed limit on Walkinstown Drive, Dublin 12.

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:**

Walkinstown Drive is in the 30 km/h speed zone. The signage is installed at the entrance of the state.

**Q.61 COUNCILLOR EIMER MCCORMACK**

To ask the Chief Executive to provide me with a copy of the leaf sweeping rota for the Cabra/Glasnevin/Drumcondra and to provide details of how many road sweepers are available and utilised for this work.

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:**

Waste Management Services operate a leaf clearing programme throughout the city over the autumn and winter months. Priority is given to tree-lined streets with heavy pedestrian use and areas particularly prone to flooding. As leaf removal is labour intensive and time consuming, it takes time to get around all parts of the city. In addition we assist resident groups in clearing leaves from their areas and remove the collected leaves for them

The Cabra/Glasnevin/Drumcondra area is included as often as possible during the course of this leaf clearing programme. We have one large road sweeper, one compact 50 sweeper, one small compact sweeper and five side loader vans operating in this area. In addition we have two cage tail lifts and one bin freighter who operate throughout the North West area including this area.

**Q.62 COUNCILLOR EIMER MCCORMACK**

To ask the Chief Executive, with the recent dressing of the potholes on Crawford Avenue completed, can the CE provide a date for complete road resurfacing to be carried out. The potholes, while currently filled are extremely uneven and a health and safety concern for residents.

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:**

An enquiry (Ref: 11128846) has been created for Crawford Avenue carriageway. This carriageway will be considered when drafting the 2023 works programme. In the interim RMS will carry out any emergency repairs as necessary.

**Q.63 COUNCILLOR EIMER MCCORMACK**

To ask the Chief Executive to provide an update regarding the requested removal of the warped around lights placed on the trunks of trees by residents during Covid. The tree surgeon who visited Kinvara Avenue and Ashington Avenue in Dublin 7 stated the cables are starting to damage these trees and need to be removed.

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:**

Park services have reviewed this request and given the time of year with Christmas approaching and many proactive resident and community groups erecting Christmas lighting in their respective areas it would be unwise to tackle this matter at this time. Parks services would encourage all groups to remove these lights as soon as possible after the festive period. Parks services will investigate and remove lights if there is any obvious signs of damage to trees on a case-by-case basis.

**Q.64 COUNCILLOR EIMER MCCORMACK**

To ask the Chief Executive to provide some detail on any plans for the storm drains on upper Drumcondra Road between Griffith Avenue and Home Farm Road junction's. There is an issue with the drains that may require the road to be dug up. The risk is after storms, there is a deluge of surface water flowing down Upper Drumcondra Road posing a traffic hazard and in worst case a flood risk in lower Drumcondra around Millmount Avenue and Millbourne Avenue.

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:**

Currently there are no plans for the upgrading of the surface water system on the Drumcondra Road.

DCC Drainage will carry out some investigations in the area to see if there are any structural issues with the pipes that may be causing road flooding.

Based on these investigations, we can assess the next steps.

It's worth bearing in mind that its DCC policy to introduce nature based solutions (swales, tree pits, rain gardens etc.) with regard to flood prevention, which would complement or replace the traditional drainage pipe.

**Q.65 COUNCILLOR CLAIRE BYRNE**

To ask the Chief Executive to give a timescale for a new application to Bord Pleanála for the pedestrianisation of College Green, can he confirm what consultants, if any, have been appointed to work on the scheme, share with me any relevant reports on the proposal, and can he make a statement on the matter?

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:**

Dublin City Council are very shortly going to tender in order to appoint a Design Team to take the College Green Dame Street Public Realm Project through the various projects stages .

Definitive timelines regarding the delivery of the various project stages will be established once the Design Team has been appointed.

**Q.66 COUNCILLOR CLAIRE BYRNE**

To ask the Chief Executive to update me on progress with the feasibility study that he undertook to carry out in 2022 on the potential locations, facilities, costs, timeframes etc. for an alternative facility in the likely event of the need to replace Markievicz Pool due to the MetroLink Project?

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:**

A detailed report and presentation in relation to the Markievicz feasibility study will be provided at the January Area Committee meeting.

**Q.67 COUNCILLOR CLAIRE BYRNE**

To ask the Chief Executive to consider levying rates on the former Baggot Street Hospital? It is noted that Section 16 of the HSE (Financial Matters) Act 2014 amends Schedule 4 of the Valuation Act 2001 to include "any land, building or part of building occupied by the HSE" to be exempt from rates. However the former Baggot Street Hospital has been vacant for several years, so can a rates demand be issued?

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:**

Rates is a tax on occupation not ownership. Occupation must be exclusive. Exclusive in this context means that the person using the hereditament can prevent any other person from using it in the same way.

As noted, Section 16 of the HSE (Financial Matters) Act 2014 exempts the HSE from rates, as they have the exclusive right to occupy the former Baggot Street Hospital, no rates demand can be issued.

**Q.68 COUNCILLOR CLAIRE BYRNE**

To ask the Chief Executive can he please provide a full breakdown of Active Travel spending for 2021 and 2022 to date, and can the report include how much has been spent on footpath repairs and in what locations.

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:**

The Active Travel Programme Office are currently working towards the completion of the year to date financial reports to include November. A detailed report on all the matters raised will be issued to the Elected Member in advance of the January Council meeting.

**Q.69 COUNCILLOR VINCENT JACKSON**

To ask the Chief Executive the following: please look at the following: I asked this question last month to the South Central Area committee however the substantive element of was the issue of the claim for works needed to rectify the situation of **(details supplied)**.

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:**

Parks Biodiversity & Landscape Services Section has responded directly to Cllr Jackson and the homeowner in relation to this matter. If additional information is required, please contact Mary Davis at [mary.davis@dublincity.ie](mailto:mary.davis@dublincity.ie).

**Q.70 COUNCILLOR VINCENT JACKSON**

To ask the Chief Executive to please look into the following house insulation package as a matter of urgency of **(details supplied)**.

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:**

We can confirm that **(details provided)** is a property which is eligible for upgrade works under our Energy Efficiency Retrofitting programme.

However, due to the volume of properties involved, which is 12,000 houses approximately, the scheme operates as a roll out programme. The programme has proved hugely successful to date and will run for a number of years, subject to continued Departmental funding support, until it reaches its conclusion.

The timeframe for this will be dependent on the annual allocation of funding received. Consequently, it is not feasible to target individual properties in any area or estate citywide or confirm an exact timeframe for upgrade works to commence on any individual property. We endeavour to spread the works across all areas in an equal and fair manner where possible.

**Q.71 COUNCILLOR VINCENT JACKSON**

To ask the Chief Executive to please ask ESB Networks to look at the re-painting of public lamp standards in their ownership in the Ballyfermot, Inchicore, Cherry Orchard, Chapelizod, Bluebell, Drimnagh and Walkinstown areas it is years since the lamp standards have had a lick of paint, I would have thought this contract would have rolled over every few years to ensure they are kept reasonably well.

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:**

The ESB has been asked by the DCC Lighting Services to look at the re-painting of ESB network Poles that carry DCC lights in the above mentioned areas. As these are quite large areas if a list of particular streets of concern could be provided these streets could also be forwarded onto them.

**Q.72 COUNCILLOR VINCENT JACKSON**

To ask the Chief Executive to please look at the following: that consideration be given to providing a community space on the ground floor of the soon to be re-purposed premises from which DCC received back from the former hair-dressers at **(details supplied 1). (details supplied 2)** area has no heritage facility from which to record the rich heritage of our community and over the past few years' permission have been given for a couple of thousand new housing units without any community gain. **(details supplied 2)** Heritage Group are looking for a ground floor premises for many years.

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:**

This property is currently with Housing Development and is due to be refurbished from a commercial unit to housing units for the City Council.

This project will be delivered under the Buy and Renew Scheme.

In 2023 the Heritage Office will engage with the local heritage group to formulate a plan to record the heritage of the area.

**Q.73 COUNCILLOR KEITH CONNOLLY**

To ask the Chief Executive to arrange for the repair of the footpath at **(details supplied)** an area of high footfall, including a bus stop.

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:**

An inspection has been carried out at this location with a number of defects logged for repair. Due to the current workload, it is not currently possible to confirm when repairs will be completed.

**Q.74 COUNCILLOR KEITH CONNOLLY**

To ask the Chief Executive to arrange for an inspection of the carriageway and footpaths at **(details supplied)** with a view to repair. The area isn't part of a new cycle way and both the paths and carriageway is in a state of disrepair.

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:**

Inspections have recently been carried out at this location with the section of footpath between **(details supplied)** provisionally included in the 2023 program of works.

**Q.75 COUNCILLOR KEITH CONNOLLY**

To ask the Chief Executive the total cost of installing the pedestrian and cycleway changes at Ballymun Road/Mobhi Road/Griffith Avenue junction and if he is aware of the changes required to the junction if the Bus Connects Core Bus Corridor Ballymun to City Centre route gets planning permission.

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:**

With regards to the proposals for the junction at Ballymun Road/Mobhi Road/Griffith in the BusConnects CBC 3 submission, Dublin City Council (DCC) are aware of the details proposed. As per the planning process, DCC will be responding with comments to the proposal.

The design of the new layout for the Ballymun Road/Mobhi Road/Griffith Avenue junction was fully funded by the NTA and was developed in consultation with the NTA's Bus Connects Team. The designs sought to provide improve facilities for both pedestrians and cyclists while minimising future works required by Bus Connects should the route get planning permission. €341,317 was spent on these junction works in 2021 with a further €567,075 spent during 2022.

**Q.76 COUNCILLOR KEITH CONNOLLY**

To ask the Chief Executive to investigate the possibility of putting in traffic calming measures or to include **(details supplied)** in a neighbourhood traffic scheme. The area is being used as a rat run, this area was previously recommended as a neighbourhood scheme prior to covid19.

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:**

A Neighbourhood Scheme is currently being proposed for the **(details supplied 1)** Area as it ranked highly in the North West Area. It is expected that this scheme can be implemented in early 2023.

Following completion of this scheme, we will consider other residential areas such as **(details supplied 2)** for implementation of a scheme.

**Q.77 COUNCILLOR DAITHÍ DOOLAN**

To ask the Chief Executive for a full report & update on the DFB recruitment programme, please include statistics on how many people applied, how many were shortlisted, how many went in to training and how many are now full DFB staff members?

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:**

Below is an up to date position regarding the on-boarding of recruits on 2022.

- Recruit class 01/2021 consisting of 35 recruits, are operational from January 2022
- 45 recruits, class 01/2022 are operational from 1st November
- A further 30 recruits, Class 02/2022 are operational from 21st November



The process of recruitment is underway, 4786 applied. Shortlisting and interviewing will form part of the process now that the campaign has completed. This will culminate in a recruit class as early as possible in the New Year.

**Q.78 COUNCILLOR DAITHÍ DOOLAN**

To ask the Chief Executive to outline in tabular form how many families and singles are registered homeless with DCC and how many applicants have been registered homeless for 1 year, for 2 years and for over 2 years?

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:**

The number of family and single adult households registered with DCC and accessing emergency accommodation at the end of October 2022 is outlined in the table below.

Month	Families	Singles	Total Households
October 2022	549	2,625	3,453

The requested breakdown of duration in emergency accommodation is outlined below:

Duration in EA (as at 31/10/2022)	Families	Singles
24+ months	80	389
12-24 months	106	395
12 months or less	355	1,662
<b>Total</b>	<b>541*</b>	<b>2,446*</b>

*\* This figure differs to the figure for October because it is calculated using a point in time. The monthly family/singles figures are calculated by counting all households using emergency accommodation over the final week of each month.*

**Q.79 COUNCILLOR DAITHÍ DOOLAN**

To ask the Chief Executive how many DCC tenants applied for housing priority under ESG citing anti-social behaviour, violence, threats of violence and intimidation as reasons for the ESG application for the years 2020, 2021 and so far in 2022?

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:**

In total, there were 596 applications to the ESG scheme in 2020; 673 applications in 2021 and 791 applications to date in 2022, all citing a broad variety of reasons for seeking priority. Regrettably, it is not possible to extract how many of these cited anti-social behaviour, violence, threats of violence and intimidation as reasons for applying for housing priority under the ESG Scheme.

**Q.80 COUNCILLOR DAITHÍ DOOLAN**

To ask the Chief Executive to outline how much DCC spent on the collection and disposal of illegal dumping for 2020, 2021 and so far in 2022, please include the tonnage as well?

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:**

Waste Management Services collection of illegal dumping, incur the following costs: Labour, Fleet and disposal. Below are the costs for dedicated illegal dumping removals.

	2020	2021	2022 (end of October)
Tonnes of illegal dumping	3215.52	3298.37	2698.04

Cost of removal, Labour, fleet and Disposal	€984,939.51	€904,620.22	€794,154.83
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**Q.81 COUNCILLOR MANNIX FLYNN**

To ask the Chief Executive to issue a full report regarding the deployment of safety wardens on the streets of Dublin that has been brought about by the North Inner city local community safety partnership and Dublin town/The BID company.

This report to include what consultation took place with DCC and what terms of reference are being used for these individuals and just exactly what is their role regarding safety in the city centre. What relationship do they have with the local authority and who do they report to?

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:**

Dublin's North Inner City Community Safety Partnership proposes to pilot a Community Safety Warden Scheme on Wolfe Tone Park and surrounding environs. The pilot is modelled on the experience of the Derry Strabane Policing Community Safety Partnership (PCSP) management of a Community Safety Warden Scheme and DublinTown BID Company experience of facilitating a City Ambassador Scheme.

The decision to pilot the scheme in Dublin's North Inner City was discussed and agreed at a Dublin North Inner City LCSP board meeting, the board is made up of public representatives, state agencies, community & voluntary sector and residents.

The North Inner City Local Community Safety Partnership applied for funding under the Community Safety Innovation Fund made available by the Department of Justice.

The funding is now secured and will be administered by Dublin Town who along with the LCSP are the lead partners in the managing of the Community Safety Warden Scheme. The scheme will be piloted for one year and employ 2.5 Safety Wardens.

The Community Safety Wardens will be located on Wolfe Tone Park and immediate environs, including Ryders Row, Anglesey Row, Capel Street, Jervis Street, Jervis Lane, Swift Row, Wolfe Tone Street, Strand Street, Mary Street and Mary's Abbey This area was chosen as a high profile commercial and residential area (based on footfall cameras there's an estimated 5 Million visits p/a, shoppers, residents and tourists) with some challenges around perceptions of safety.

Wolfe Tone Park has benefited from a City Council regeneration scheme and the surrounding streets including Capel Street have been pedestrianised and made suitable for pro-community and social activities. It is intended that the Community Safety Wardens will support this aim.

The scope of the Community Safety Wardens will be to provide a visible presence, foster communication with stakeholders, signposting relevant services and arrange pro-social community events. This Scheme will promote community, business, State agency and voluntary sector engagement on safety and to reimagine a positive perception of safety for all users of the space. The Wardens have no enforcement capacity and will report any criminal activity observed to AGS and keep a record of the report and the response time.

The Community Safety Warden Scheme will work under the direction of LCSP and DublinTown's role will be as employer as a partner agency on the LCSP Board. The scheme will establish effective grassroots communication with state and community services, including detached youth workers, An Garda Siochána, local drug and

alcohol programmes and Dublin City Council in its management. This will allow for effective and time critical management of safety issues as they arise.

LCSW's will hopefully contribute to a reduction in negative community incidents, crime and the fear of crime by reassuring residents and visitors to the area initially through their highly visible presence but also through a proactive approach in planning pro-community activity with local residents and local businesses.

CSW's will have direct contact links with dedicated Gardaí units, Street Cleansing teams and outreach supports.

LCSP has a specific remit to meet the goals of addressing safety and perceived levels of safety in Dublin's North Inner City. Our board is made up of senior staff across the professions including statutory agencies and is informed by residents from across the north inner city. All are considered to be experts in identifying safety issues and responding appropriately.

**Q.82 COUNCILLOR MANNIX FLYNN**

To ask the Chief Executive to issue a report as to why the developer of the hotel at Portobello Plaza was exempt from charges for the use of the Plaza which is a Dublin City Council owned public space. Also, there are other examples within the city where this policy has taken place for instance the bottom of Georges Street which is another publicly owned space being used by a developer. Were there charges incurred here?

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:**

The occupation and eventual reinstatement of the Plaza at Portobello Harbour is taking place under the terms and conditions of a Road Opening Licence issued by Road Maintenance Services Division. Road Maintenance Services has received a deposit for the issue of the Road Opening Licence in accordance with established terms and conditions.

The Property Development Department has agreed terms with the developer of the Mercantile Hotel to use the site at the rear of 24 Dame Street/South Great Georges Street as a compound for a period of 12 months with an option to extend for a further period of 12 months subject to a licence fee of €20,000 p.a. abated to €200 p.a. which is to reflect the cost of upgrading the amenity space on completion of the development. The design, materials and works are to be agreed with the City Council. The legal formalities are being finalised.

The Council's Roadworks Control Section have also issued a Hoarding Licence for Portobello Harbour (Plaza) covering the period 13th December 2021 to 12th December 2022 with fees of €7,884.00 which were paid in full. Additionally Roadworks Control also issued a Hoarding Licence for a site at George's Street/Dame Street/Dame Lane for the period 14th November 2021 to 13th December 2022 with fees €14,904.00 which have also been paid in full. Both these hoardings may be extended to coincide with the continuation of construction works at said locations.

**Q.83 COUNCILLOR MANNIX FLYNN**

To ask the Chief Executive to issue a report as to how many commercial units at Herberton in Rialto are vacant and why they are vacant? What efforts, if any have been made to occupy these units?

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:**

All Dublin City Council commercial units in the Herberton development are currently in use and have tenants in them on various lease arrangements. The majority of the commercial units are in private ownership and this is a private matter which the City

Council does not have any information as regards the current/future intentions for same.

**Q.84 COUNCILLOR MANNIX FLYNN**

To ask the Chief Executive to issue a full report as to how many individuals have been refused accommodation by Dublin city council as a result of estate management checks. Also, how many of these individuals have appealed this decision and also what grounds the individuals have been refused accommodation. This report to cover the past five years to the present day.

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:**

Allocations do not collate these numbers. Over the past five years they would run into hundreds, also the vast majority of applicants would appeal. This appeal would be decided by a person of a higher grade who was not involved in the original decision. The reason for a deferral of an application for housing is, Anti-social Behaviour, which is defined in the 1997 Housing Miscellaneous Provisions Act as amended.

**Q.85 COUNCILLOR JANET HORNER**

To ask the Chief Executive to provide a budget for, and carry out works to prevent further deterioration of the former Married Quarters building (Protected Structure) on the Eastern side of Infirmary Road, Dublin 7 and the associated buildings. I note that in a previous reply he stated that in February 2019 a building Fabric Condition survey was conducted, and that following this assessment, a budget estimate was prepared to seal the building at a cost of approx. €300K?

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:**

The Married Quarters Building was included within the Part 8 2019 Social Housing application site boundary line (RED) with the following text contained in the published notices.

"No works are proposed to the former Married Quarters building (Protected Structure) in this application. "Part 8 ref **3210/19**

Independent of the housing Part 8 application, in February 2019 a building Fabric Condition survey was conducted. Following this assessment, a budget estimate was prepared to seal the building approx. €300K (August 2019). Please note that these costs are now out of date. No further action has been taken and there are no active plans for refurbishment and use.

**Q.86 COUNCILLOR JANET HORNER**

To ask the Chief Executive to confirm that he has acquired 66 Montpelier Hill, Dublin 7, D07 V1H3 and to outline his future plans for the building, and a timescale for the works to be completed?

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:**

Dublin City Council has acquired No.66 Montpelier Hill, Dublin 7. This vacant property will be refurbished and returned to housing stock under the Buy and Renew Scheme. The property will be returned to use in early 2023.

**Q.87 COUNCILLOR JANET HORNER**

To ask the Chief Executive if he is aware that the building (former supermarket) at 32 Infirmary Road, Dublin 7 (D07 X628) had been vacant and derelict for almost a decade and can outline the steps he can take to ensure the building is brought back to use by either its placing on the Derelict Sites Register, the levying of rates on the building or other measures?

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:**

The Derelict Sites Unit will arrange to have the site inspected and will take action as appropriate following the assessment of its condition. A full report on the findings of the inspection will issue to the Councillor.

**Q.88 COUNCILLOR JANET HORNER**

To ask the Chief Executive how many fines have been issued in total in the last 12 months for all properties that are currently on the derelict properties register?

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:**

There are currently 79 sites entered on the Derelict Sites Register (DSR). 59 sites were issued with derelict sites levy demands in 2022 totalling €1.4m. Sites entered on the DSR this year will not be liable for levies until 1/1/2023. The derelict sites levy is 7% of market value which will continue to apply until the site is rendered non-derelict. Unpaid levies will also be subject to interest of 1.5% per month. Outstanding levies automatically become a charge on the land.

**Q.89 COUNCILLOR DEIRDRE HENEY**

To ask the Chief Executive can he please be of assistance in relation to a very upsetting situation for tenants at **(details supplied)**, and say what assistance/advice he can provide in this case.

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:**

We have investigated this complaint and have found that **(details supplied)** is managed by Tuath Housing Association.

We will contact Tuath and request that they investigate this complaint and take all measures necessary to stop this antisocial behaviour.

We will also visit the neighbouring resident at **(details supplied)** and make sure they are aware of the reporting procedures for such complaints.

**Q.90 COUNCILLOR DEIRDRE HENEY**

To ask the Chief Executive to please refer to trees at **(details supplied)** and say what assistance he can provide in having same lopped before next Spring as these trees are diminishing the sunlight into neighbouring properties more and more as each year passes, as the particular tree specimen is enormous and grows vigorously year after year. One resident has been writing to Dublin City Council on and off over the last three years or more, asking for the trees to be lopped off.

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:**

The locus will be inspected in the coming weeks as local schedules allow and any works deemed necessary will be listed for inclusion in the prioritised tree care programme for the area 2022-23.

**Q.91 COUNCILLOR DEIRDRE HENEY**

To ask the Chief Executive to please refer to housing waiting list applicant (for 17 years now,) at **(details supplied)** and be of assistance, to include

- (a) why her name was not been properly changed to reflect her maiden name on the list
- (b) when it is likely she will be housed

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:**

The above applicant is on Band 2 (overcrowded) Housing List, Ref 93534, and the applicant holds the following positions on this list:

Area	Bedsizes	Position
B	3	76
H	3	35

Dublin City Council allocates properties based on time on the list and currently there are applicants of longer standing who have to be considered as suitable vacancies arise. It is not possible to indicate accurately the prospect of an offer for any applicant. The number of vacancies arising will be a determining factor in the length of time applicants could expect to be on the waiting list.

The applicants should keep checking the Dublin City Council website for any Choice Based Lettings that may become available in their area of choice.

Allocations have updated the housing file accordingly.

**Q.92 COUNCILLOR DEIRDRE HENEY**

To ask the Chief Executive in relation to **(details supplied)**, say if he can:

- (a) be of assistance in providing housing in this instance
- (b) have one of his housing officials contact details attached and advise what options are available in this type of housing case
- (c) provide the necessary applicable housing documentation

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:**

Mr. **(details supplied)** can apply for Social Housing Support to Dublin City Council, however, we do not nominate into these premises.

**Q.93 COUNCILLOR DARRAGH MORIARTY**

To ask the Chief Executive for DCC to re-examine the public lighting situation at Weaver Park off Cork Street. A section of the park (photos included) is in complete darkness from 4.30pm during the winter months. This was previously an issue, but it wasn't as bad because of street-lighting from Cork Street, however, this is now blocked by the DCC Chamber Street Housing Development. Can the Parks Department install additional public lighting so that people using and walking through the park feel safe?

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:**

Parks can review the lighting provision in Weaver Park. There is an existing lighting pole at this corner in the park so the area should be receiving adequate lighting. The housing development is perhaps negatively impacting the light spill as suggested. Once the housing complex is occupied then the issue should be resolved, estimated first half 2023. In the interim parks can examine if lighting can be improved temporarily.

**Q.94 COUNCILLOR DARCY LONERGAN**

To ask the Chief Executive to outline his plans for the further traffic-calming of the racetrack that is Parnell Square, particularly on the western and northern side of the square and can he bring forward plans for a 'road diet' for the Square that would make it safer and easier for pedestrians and cyclists to travel around, and that would be in keeping with the heritage of the Square?

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:**

At Parnell Square, there are proposals for this area that is included in BusConnects CBC route 2 Swords to City Centre. As with the other CBC schemes, there has been three public consultations rounds regarding these proposals by the NTA and the NTA

plan to submit the scheme to An Bord Pleanála for planning permission in the New Year. If granted planning permission by An Bord Pleanála, it would bring in a significant sustainable transportation infrastructure needed for the area including improved pedestrian crossing facilities. Details can be found at [www.busconnects.ie](http://www.busconnects.ie)

**Q.95 COUNCILLOR DONNA COONEY**

To ask the Chief Executive if funding can be allocated to pedestrian crossings to provide safe routes to school that have been agreed by TAG as required, for example on Mount Prospect road at the junction of Seafield Avenue which is a route for five primary schools and playing pitches at Woodside St Anne's Park, is an active transport route with a school cycle bus and a park and stride route from Woodside but is dangerous with no crossing and a double decker frequent bus route, to ask if funding could be allocated from NTA for active transport routes for pedestrians crossings, as TAG engineers say there is no funding available to provide pedestrian crossings having agreed in April 2022 to go for design and then in November 2022 then said they have no funding again this year and when it becomes available in 2023 that there would need to be a reassessment, so the wait is longer then the time a child is in primary school as this pedestrian crossing is waiting eight years already.

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:**

The area engineer is awaiting confirmation of the 2023 budget for Dublin North Central. Until the area engineer receives this confirmation any proposed pedestrian crossing(s) must be added to a current list of proposed pedestrian crossings for consideration in 2023

Seafield Road and Mount Prospect Road are not along any routes that are being planned as part of the current Active Travel Network. The nearest Active Travel route is the Coolock to Clontarf scheme which is planned to include Vernon Avenue. The permanent scheme is currently scheduled for delivery between 2025 - 2027.

**Q.96 COUNCILLOR DONNA COONEY**

To ask the Chief Executive if Dublin City Council are planning to recruit more parking enforcement officers as there is only one and if the active travel office can provide support for the school travel program by giving priority to active transport routes on school routes, also that the school travel section are adequately resourced after the loss of staff and TAG moving after the Covid travel team was disbanded.

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:**

There is only one position of Parking Enforcement Officer who leads the Parking Enforcement Section. This post is currently filled on a temporary basis.

A competition for Cycling and Walking Officer is currently underway and interviews are scheduled in early December. Further competitions are scheduled for Q1 of 2023 which will allow additional staff to be assigned to these areas. These posts include Assistant and Executive Engineer and Assistant ITS Officer. In addition the assignment of a Staff Officer to the Traffic Section is in process.

The Active Travel Programme Office has prioritised rapid expansion of the Active Travel Network through the delivery of interim schemes. This action is being taken to mitigate against the lengthy process for the planning and design of permanent schemes. The Active Travel Network will bring 95% of primary schools and 98.5% of secondary schools within 400 metres of the network. The schools programme will therefore complement the Active Travel Network by linking the network to the school gate.

**Q.97 COUNCILLOR DONNA COONEY**

To ask the Chief Executive if an electricity supply can be provided for the revitalised Moore Street Market from the department urban regeneration funding, as the number of stalls providing hot food offerings are limited due to capacity of the generator.

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:**

The Office of City Recovery are in constant contact with the operator of the new Moore Street Market and we are working together in the development of the Market. The Office will continue our close engagements with the operator in facilitating the growth and expansion of the new Moore Street Market in the coming months and will provide all possible assistance.