

QUESTIONS LODGED PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER NO.18 FOR REPLY AT THE MONTHLY MEETING OF DUBLIN CITY COUNCIL TO BE HELD ON MONDAY, 9TH JANUARY 2023

Q.1 COUNCILLOR JOHN LYONS

To ask the Chief Executive for a report providing details of the number, type and location of new social homes provided directly by Dublin City Council in each year 2012-2021, and separately the number of new social homes provided by third parties on behalf of Dublin City Council, their locations and type.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

The below tables provide details on the number of social homes delivered across the various delivery streams. Detailed report including the type and location of the homes will be sent directly to the Councillor once completed.

YEAR	LA CONSTRUCTION	ACQUISITION	CAS	REGENERATION	TOTAL CAPITAL Units	SHCEP	TOTAL CAPITAL UNITS + CURRENT UNITS
2015	19	196	168	34	417	258	675

YEAR	Build			Acquisition			Leasing	
2016	LA New Build	AHB New Build	Total New Build	LA Acquisition	AHB Acquisition	Acquisition Total	Leasing Total	Total
	56	99	155	147	68	215	25	395

YEAR	Build				Acquisition			Leasing	
	LA New Build	AHB New Build	Part V	Total New Build	LA Acquisition	AHB Acquisition	Acquisition Total	Leasing Total	Overall Totals
2017	295	214	56	565	217	116	333	79	977
2018	264	282	104	650	265	280	545	61	1,256
2019	90	302	119	511	424	123	547	115	1,173
2020	49	24	2	75	35	0	35	5	115
2021	154	92	109	355	221	92	313	530	1,198

Q.2 COUNCILLOR DECLAN MEENAGH

To ask the Chief Executive if the LGMA has yet issued guidance to DCC on the use of data from CCTV for the purposes of identifying individuals engaged in illegal dumping.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

In accordance with the provisions of the Circular Economy & Miscellaneous Provisions Act 2022, the LGMA are required to agree Codes of Practice with a number of government departments and statutory agencies for use of CCTV and Mobile Recording Devices (MRD) for the prevention, detection and prosecution of offences under the Litter Pollution Acts as amended.

The draft Codes of Practices have to be approved by the CCMA's Climate Action, Waste Management, Transport and Networks Committee, which is expected in late Jan, early Feb of this year, prior to being submitted to the various public bodies prescribed in Section 14C(4) of the 1996 Act as amended by the Circular Economy and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 2022. It is only after that consultation process has been completed and the Minister has approved the final version of the Codes of Practices that the various sections of the Circular Economy and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 2022 which will permit for the lawful use of CCTV and MRDs for waste offences will be commenced.

The Chief Executive will then have to agree a CCTV scheme. The use of CCTV or MRDs for the prevention, detection and prosecution of offences under the Waste Management Act, 1996 and the Litter Pollution Act, 1997 is prohibited until such time as the above lawful basis is commenced.

Q.3 COUNCILLOR RACHEAL BATTEN

To ask the Chief Executive to provide an average cost of built of a standard Apartment block per Unit and an average cost of a modular built housing unit.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

There are many variables that go into the delivery of every Housing Unit and Apartment. Things such as utilities, infrastructure, apartment size, ground conditions, heights of structures, planning permission conditions etc. can all vary greatly and make it very difficult to reach an average or standardised cost. The recent presentation delivered to the Housing SPC has covered many of these issues. This will be finalised early in the New Year into report form and circulated to all Councillors.

Q.4 COUNCILLOR RACHEAL BATTEN

To ask the Chief Executive to provide the details of the lead time on a standard apartment block and modular built house lead time, this can broke down in 1, 2 and 3 bed units.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

Timelines below exclude site selection, feasibility and DHLGH Stage 1 approval stages. All projects contain a mix of units sizes (1, 2, 3 beds etc.).

Modular construction

Dublin City Council is currently undertaking 4 apartment complexes utilising modern methods of construction (2D modular). These are Bunratty Rd, Bonham St, Springvale and Cork St. They are being delivered using Design and Build (D+B) contracts which require contractors to select and use their preferred modular solutions and appoint their own design team to produce detail design and specifications. Lead in times were as follows:

The projects were initiated in 2018 under emergency legislation which waived the requirement for Part 8 planning approval. (Cork St. and Springvale were subsequently submitted for Part 8 following objections from residents.). DCC appointed a Design Team in August 2018 to undertake scheme designs, high level specifications and works requirements. The projects were tendered as one bundle end 2018. The projects started on site October 2019 (Bunratty, Bonham St), January 2020 (Springvale) and February 2020 (Cork St). We are waiting confirmation from the Contractor regarding completion dates pending remedial works / Building Regulation compliance issues.

Standard or traditional construction

Most housing projects delivered through City Architects are 'traditional' Employer-Design Contracts. The term 'traditional construction' is slightly misleading given projects are designed and constructed to sophisticated environmental standards meeting current Building Regulations. One current example of a 'traditional construction' project is Dominick Hall, Dominick St., The architectural team was appointed in January 2016, with the engineering disciplines following on in May 2016. Part 8 was lodged in October 2016 and granted in February 2017. The Disability Access Certificate application and Fire Safety Certificate application were lodged in February 2017 and were granted in March and July of the same year. Detail design and tender production progressed and tenders were issued in April 2018. The Contract was awarded at the end of November 2018 and works commenced on site in January 2019. It is due for Building Regulation compliance sign-off and completion early January 2023.

Note:

Both the Part 8 waiver given to the initial modular projects, and use of D+B contracts (where contractor appoints their own design teams and can undertake detailed design after contract awarded) shortened the lead in time considerably relative to traditional construction projects. As the emergency legislation is no longer in place, and pending capacity of construction sector to deliver modular construction, future modular / D+B projects would follow a similar time frame as traditional build up to tender documentation.

Q.5 COUNCILLOR RACHEAL BATTEN

To ask the Chief Executive to save for the provision of density built, can the Chief Executive provide what is the required land space included the 25% open space requirement of a 100 units of apartment versus 100 units of housing/duplex.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

Table 15.4 (Chapter 15) of the Dublin City Development Plan 2022-2028 (due to come into effect on the 14th of December 2022) sets out that 25% public open space will be required within areas zoned Z12 and Z15. The 25% requirement is calculated on the basis of the site area. It does not therefore relate to the density of the development as proposed or the typology of housing type.

Q.6 COUNCILLOR RACHEAL BATTEN

To ask the Chief Executive, in relation to the above where there is comparable developments apartment block versus traditional build or modular build housing/duplex in the last 2 years can we get time lines and costing.

Example: Apartment blocks (50 units) in X area in 2021 took x weeks, and euro;
Housing/ duplex development (50 units) in X area in 2021, took x weeks and euro

Please note that this is excluding land cost (excluding services).

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

Modular example

The Cork Street Design & Build contract is for 55 units. This commenced on site on the 24 February 2020 with an anticipated completion date of 10 August 2020 (18 month period).

Completion has been delayed due to a number of issues including Covid site closures and need for contractor to remediate defective work. We are awaiting contractor confirmation on completion date.

As the project is still under contract the contract sum is commercially sensitive.

Traditional example

Margaret Kennedy Road and Margaret Kennedy Court comprises 38 no. townhouses and 16 no. apartments. (54 no. units in total). It is a direct delivery project, designed in house by City Architects Division and delivered under the Public Works Contract PWCF-1 in February 2021.

The Contract for the construction of 54 no units was awarded on 27.11.2018. Construction Works commenced on site 28.01.2019. The Certificate of Substantial Completion of the Works issued on 16.02.2021

The project was subject to 1 no. Covid 19 Closure in 2020 and a number of unforeseen issues, giving rise to Delay and Compensation Events under the contract.

Based on the Contract Sum, dated **(before final account adjustments)**, the average unit cost was €351k excl. VAT.

Q.7 COUNCILLOR CHRISTY BURKE

To ask the Chief Executive that the rainwater that has been coming from the roof into the home at **(details supplied)** be repaired. This matter was reported in Oct thus far no repairs have been carried out.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

The works have been completed for the tenant and leaks repaired.

Q.8 COUNCILLOR CHRISTY BURKE

To ask the Chief Executive when the Coopers cross new units will be in housing stock. Also would the CEO confirm if DCC have 3 bed units at Coopers cross Mayor Street Dublin 1.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

The Housing Department have agreed to acquire 40 units off-site at Northbank, Dublin 1 as Part V compliance for Cooper's Cross, Dublin 1. These units are to be acquired by Tuath Housing Association over the coming months. The following breakdown of units will be provided:

No. of Apts.	Type
10	1 Bed Apartment
20	2 Bed Apartment
10	3 Bed Apartment

Q.9 COUNCILLOR CHRISTY BURKE

To ask the Chief Executive that the damaged path outside (**details supplied**) be repaired as soon as possible please.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

An enquiry number 11129383 has been set up on our Confirm Asset Management System and assigned to the Area Engineer. An inspection will be scheduled and if any defects are identified, a job will be scheduled when a repair crew is available in the area.

Q.10 COUNCILLOR CHRISTY BURKE

To ask the Chief Executive to mark out the 4 car space sections at the parking bays on (**details supplied**), as the white lines have faded overtime.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

The Area Housing Manager contacted the painting section, who have advised that this request to mark out the 4 car space sections at the parking bay on above location has been put on their works list.

These works will be carried out in the New Year once the weather condition allows for this type of work.

Q.11 COUNCILLOR JOHN LYONS

To ask the Chief Executive for a copy of the O 'Devaney Gardens Development Agreement between Dublin City Council and Bartra and a report from the manager on how Bartra have reneged on the conditions of the development agreement and what the city council proposes to do to resolve this matter.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

The Development Agreement is a commercially sensitive document and cannot be made available for circulation. A redacted version of this document was made available to view in Civic Offices in 2019, this can be arranged again.

By way of update with respect to the O'Devaney Gardens Development note the following:

Final grant of Planning was received on the 16th May when the court case between Bartra and An Bord Pleanala was concluded. Bartra were to be on site within four weeks of the final grant of planning. However, delays to the O'Devaney Gardens Phase 1 project meant that Dublin City Council were unable to make the Phase 2 site fully available to Bartra without encumbrance. The Phase 1A scheme is now complete with handover expected by end December.

In the interim, delays to the programme have impacted several aspects of the contractual arrangements with the Developer. Unprecedented construction cost inflation and challenging events such as Brexit, the Covid Pandemic and the Ukraine Conflict have understandably presented difficulties which have had to be resolved between the Developer and DCC. Ongoing discussions in this regard have progressed well which should enable the Developer to get on site early in the New Year.

Bartra had tendered the contract for the enabling works in July 2022 and have completed evaluation of tender submissions. They are in a position to appoint an enabling works contractor and commence these works subject to conclusion of the above discussions. Dublin City Council wants to achieve value for money notwithstanding the context of elevated inflation. It is expected that the first 380 homes will be delivered in a mix of Social, Affordable purchase and Private within 30 months.

Q.12 COUNCILLOR LARRY O'TOOLE

To ask the Chief Executive to respond to this request: due to the expected high increase in volume of traffic when the Lidl store opens on **(details supplied)** can extra traffic calming measures and extra pedestrian crossings be considered adjacent to this development.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

The request for traffic calming at the above location will be listed on the Traffic Advisory Group Agenda for examination and report. The Councillor will be informed of the recommendation in due course. Ref: 7030802.

The request for a pedestrian crossing at the above location will be listed on the Traffic Advisory Group Agenda for examination and report. The Councillor will be informed of the recommendation in due course. Ref: 7030803.

Q.13 COUNCILLOR LARRY O'TOOLE

To ask the Chief Executive to give an update on the following housing developments at **(details supplied)**.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

Housing Development issued an Expression of Interest to the AHB sector on 8th December to design, build and operate a scheme of mixed housing on both the **(details supplied)** sites. Interested parties are required to make a detailed submission by 2nd March 2023 following which an assessment will be made of submissions received. We will arrange for the successful AHB to make a presentation on their plans to the Area Committee.

Q.14 COUNCILLOR LARRY O'TOOLE

To ask the Chief Executive to respond to this request: can the developers of **(details supplied)**, be contacted to have the unsightly hoarding facing the residential area and on road up to the college be repaired, painted or replaced.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

Dublin City Council's Roadworks Control Section issued a licence to Blacklough Construction Limited to position a Scaffold on the public footpath outside **(details supplied)**. The licence was valid for the period 24th August 2022 to 23rd October 2022. The hoarding pictured in the photograph accompanying this Council Question is positioned on the building line and consequently does not require a licence from Roadworks Control.

The Planning Enforcement Section will liaise with the developer and our roads engineer in respect of this matter and request that the site hoarding concerned be repaired and tidied up. This engagement will take place forthwith.

Q.15 COUNCILLOR LARRY O'TOOLE

To ask the Chief Executive to respond to this housing query **(details supplied)**.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

The above applicant is on Band 3 of the DCC transfer list with an application date of 16/07/2010, and the applicant holds the following positions on the list:

Area	Bed size	Position
B	3	197
D	3	58
E	3	165

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.

The applicant should contact the RTB and Threshold to get advice in relation to their Notice of Termination. There is a Moratorium on evictions and Landlords can only issue valid notices in a small number of cases.

The Environmental Health Section – Private Rented Unit will contact the tenant and arrange to inspect the property.

Q.16 COUNCILLOR MÁIRE DEVINE

To ask the Chief Executive that this Council ensure that data of aggressive dog attacks include the details of the dog breed involved?

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

The DCC Animal Welfare Unit will record the breed of dog in any reports / complaints of aggressive dog attacks

The national annual Control of Dogs statistics are compiled by the Department of Rural & Community Development based on a standard template that does not include data on dog attacks or breeds. See [Control of Dogs Statistics](#)

It is anticipated that due to recent high profile cases involving aggressive dog breeds that the compilation of national data will be revised to include this information.

Q.17 COUNCILLOR MÁIRE DEVINE

To ask the Chief Executive what areas will be invited to trial the seagull-proof waste bags, will the bags be shared between or be assigned to individual households and if Ceannt Fort, Dublin 8 is included in the trial?

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

The final decision on which streets the seagull proof bags (SPB) will be trialled has not yet been taken. A number of streets are under review at the minute. Once a final decision has been made, it will be communicated to councillors and made public. With regard, shared or individual bags, DCC envisage each household to have their own SPB for the duration of the trial.

Q.18 COUNCILLOR MÁIRE DEVINE

To ask the Chief Executive that remedial works be carried out at **(details supplied)** in accordance with a court direction that the unit be refurbished to EU standards. This would likely necessitate a temporary transfer for the occupants.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

Dublin City Council has appointed a contractor to inspect and carry out repairs to the chimney. A damp assessment will also be carried out and any necessary works related to the damp assessment or the accommodation generally, will be undertaken.

Q.19 COUNCILLOR MÁIRE DEVINE

To ask the Chief Executive that a CPO be considered for the vacant site at junction of Island St/Usher St/Bridgefoot St? See map provided.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

This site is owned by DCC and is currently licenced to John Sisk & Son (Holding) Limited as a works compound in connection with a nearby social housing site.

The site is due to be vacated shortly as it is one of a number of DCC owned sites which have been identified as suitable for the development of Creative Community Campuses (CCC) and awaits allocation of funding from the Arts Office.

Q.20 COUNCILLOR DERMOT LACEY

To ask the Chief Executive if he will respond to the serious issues regarding Rent Arrears contained in the email submitted with this Question.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

Dublin City Council can confirm that all Policy and Procedures were followed regarding the query above. DCC are not in position to disclose individual details of a tenancy without the tenant's permission. Please note that only one address in **(details supplied)** is a DCC property. The Ballymun Housing Officer or the Area Manager are available to discuss directly with the Councillor if required.

Q.21 COUNCILLOR MANNIX FLYNN

To ask the Chief Executive issue a full comprehensive report with regards the seizure of properties under the CPO (Compulsive Purchase Order) and any other acts regarding properties belonging to **(details supplied)** further, that all copies of the legal orders seizing these properties be supplied to me. Also, what are DCC's intentions with regards these properties? And whether DCC intends to use the acts whereby these properties were seized to seize any further properties within the city and to what intention the city council has for their end use? Further, what financial cost to the city council have these actions cost to date? Also, what correspondence, if any, has occurred between DCC and Mr Beads prior to the seizure of these properties, during the seizure of these properties and after the seizure of these properties? Can the city council supply me with any copies or correspondence or due process given to Mr Beads in relation to these property seizures. This also to include any other property seizures that the council has carried out in this administrative area.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

The site which was entered on the Derelict Sites Register on 13th December, 2012 was acquired compulsorily pursuant to S.14 of the Derelict Sites Act 1990.

A Notice of Intention to Acquire Compulsorily was made on 27th June, 2019 and served on all parties determined to have an interest in the site. A copy of the notice was also affixed to the site and a public notice published in the Irish Times on 27th June, 2019.

Following receipt of an objection to the acquisition on 29 July, 2019 the Council in accordance with the provisions of the Derelict Sites Act 1990 made a submission to An Bord Pleanála (ABP) on 28 August, 2019 seeking their consent to the acquisition.

ABP having considered submissions consented to the compulsory acquisition of the site on 15th January, 2021. A copy of An Bord Pleanála Inspector's report is available to view and download on ABP's website (www.pleanala.ie) case reference 305306.

The Council made a Vesting Order on 22nd April, 2021 and a Notice of the Making of a Vesting Order was served on all parties determined to have an interest in the site. A copy of the notice was also affixed to the site and a public notice published in the Irish Times on 27th April, 2021. The notice invited applications for compensation not later than twelve months after the making of the Vesting Order from any person who immediately before the making of the Vesting Order had any estate or interest in or right in respect of land acquired. The notice confirmed that the Vesting Order was made on 22nd April, 2021 and that the subject land would vest in the Council on 20th May, 2021. A claim for compensation has been received and is being processed by the City Valuer's Office

The Council through the effective exercise of the legislative provisions in the Derelict Sites Act 1990, proactively strives to achieve the eradication of dereliction in the City and the return of derelict sites to active use. The implementation of an ongoing acquisition strategy since 2017 is a key part of the Council's Active Land Management Initiative which aims to eradicate underutilised lands and buildings in the city.

The Council will only acquire compulsorily as a last resort in circumstances where all efforts to secure the carrying out of improvement works by property owners have been exhausted. Thirty six derelict sites have been acquired compulsorily since March 2017. Thirty five of the acquired derelict sites, including this site, have been retained by the Council under the control of the Housing & Community Services for social housing use.

The following documentation will be provided to the Councillor:

1. Copy of Notice of Intention to Acquire Compulsorily made on 27th June, 2019 which was served on all parties determined to have an interest in the site.
2. Public notice published in the Irish Times on 27th June, 2019.
3. Copy of Notice affixed to the site.
4. Copy of Vesting Order made on 22nd April, 2021.
5. Copy of Notice of the making of a Vesting Order which was served on all parties determined to have an interest in the site.
6. Copy of public notice published in the Irish Times on 27th April, 2021.
7. Copy of Notice affixed to the site.

A Compulsory Purchase Determination Order for the above mentioned area was made on 5th April, 2019. The CPO was sealed on 29th May, 2019 and a Notice of the making of a CPO served on all parties determined to have an interest in the affected lands. A copy of the notice was also affixed to the site and a public notice published in the Irish Independent on 21st June, 2019. The CPO was submitted to An Bord Pleanála for confirmation on 11th July, 2019 and the Board was advised of all the steps taken by the Council to notify relevant parties. An Bord Pleanála informed the Council by letter dated 11th September, 2019 that it had received no objections to the compulsory Purchase Order within the period provided for making objections. The Council accordingly confirmed the CPO without modification on 17th September, 2019. A Notice of the confirmation by the Council of the CPO published in the Irish Independent on 4th October, 2019. The CPO became operative on 25th October, 2019.

A Notice to Treat was served on all affected parties on 12th December, 2019 and a Notice for Possession was served on 24th November, 2020. The Council made a

Vesting Order on 6th May, 2022 for portion of the lands and a Notice of the making of Vesting Order was served on all parties determined to have an interest in the lands. A Public Notice was published in the Irish Independent on 6th May, 2022 and the lands vested in the Council on 30th May, 2022. The Council made a Vesting Order on 20th October, 2022 for the remainder of the lands and a Notice of the making of Vesting Order was served on all parties determined to have an interest in that portion of the site. A Public Notice was published in the Irish Times on 20th October, 2022 and the lands vested in the Council on 14th November, 2022. The acquired lands as stated in the CPO title will be used for residential / commercial development.

The following documentation will be provided to the Councillor:

1. Copy of Notice of the making of a CPO served on all parties determined to have an interest in the affected lands.
2. Copy of Public notice of the making of a CPO published in the Irish Independent on 21st June, 2019.
3. Copy of Public Notice of Confirmation by the Council of the CPO published in the Irish Independent on 4th October, 2019.
4. Copy of the Notice to Treat served on all parties determined to have an interest in the affected lands on 12th December, 2019.
5. Copy of the Notice for Possession served on all parties determined to have an interest in the affected lands on 24th November, 2020.
6. Copy of Vesting Order made on 6th May, 2022 served on all parties determined to have an interest in the affected lands
7. Copy of Public Notice published in the Irish Independent on 6th May, 2022.
8. Copy of Vesting Order made on 20th October, 2022.
9. Copy of Public Notice published in the Irish Independent on 20th October, 2022.

A Compulsory Purchase Determination Order for the above mentioned area, for housing and development purposes, was made on 28th January, 2004. The CPO was sealed on 5th February, 2004 and a Notice of the making of a CPO served on all parties determined to have an interest in the affected lands. The CPO was submitted to An Bord Pleanála for confirmation on 18th February, 2004. An Bord Pleanála informed the Council by letter dated 7th April, 2004 that it had received objections to the compulsory Purchase Order within the period provided for making objections, and accordingly would be holding an oral hearing on 12th May, 2004. An Bord Pleanála subsequently confirmed the CPO with modifications on 29th July, 2004. A Notice of the confirmation by An Bord Pleanála of the CPO with modifications was published in the Irish Independent on 2nd September, 2004. The CPO became operative on 24th September, 2004.

A Notice to Treat was served on all affected parties on 7th July, 2005 and a Notice for Possession was served on 12th April, 2006. The Council made a Vesting Order on 18th February, 2021 for portion of the lands and a Notice of the making of a Vesting Order was served on all parties determined to have an interest in the lands. A Public Notice was published in the Irish Independent on 19th February, 2021 and the lands vested in the Council on 15th March, 2021. The acquired lands as stated in the CPO title will be used for housing/ development.

The following documentation will be provided to the Councillor:

1. Copy of Notice of the making of a CPO served on all parties determined to have an interest in the affected lands.
2. Copy of Public Notice of Confirmation by An Bord Pleanála of the CPO with modifications published in the Irish Independent on 2nd September, 2004.
3. Copy of the Notice to treat served on all parties determined to have an interest in the affected lands on 7th July, 2005.
4. Copy of the Notice for Possession served on all parties determined to have an interest in the affected lands on 12th April, 2006.
5. Copy of Vesting Order made on 18th February, 2021 served on all parties determined to have an interest in the affected lands
6. Copy of Public Notice published in the Irish Independent on 19th February, 2021.

Costs

There are always costs associated with the compulsory acquisition of land, the main one being the payment of compensation to the affected parties for their interest in the subject lands. There are ongoing costs related to securing the acquired lands pending redevelopment.

Following the CPO of **(details supplied 1)** Housing Development has identified an opportunity to build approximately 75 homes or housing units on the site. This project is at feasibility stage.

Following the CPO of the **(details supplied 2)** DCC carried out essential works to address public safety issues, including stabilisation and conservation works to a national monument. The site is now safe to allow access for detailed site surveys to be completed. The site has been identified as an opportunity to build approximately 16 apartments and is at feasibility stage.

Q.22 COUNCILLOR MANNIX FLYNN

To ask the Chief Executive to issue a full report as to how a cafe restaurant/structure in excess of 40 feet was allowed to be placed on Clonmel Street adjacent to Harcourt Street. This report to include what planning process were adhered to? What public consultation took place if any? What public tendering process took place, if any? What Councillors were informed that this construction was going to take place? Was the area committee of the SEA informed of any of this? Under what law and procedures were contracts signed between DCC and the owners of this restaurant cafe? What public notices were put in place to inform the public that public lavatories were being installed at this location albeit provided by the cafe owners? What fees, if any were exchanged here? Also, can the CEO supply me with all correspondence conducted between DCC and the owners of the cafe infrastructure?

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

The Office of City Recovery, Dublin City Council initiated an Open Tender Process in April 2021, seeking proposals for the provision of retail units with integrated toilet facilities in Dublin City Council's administrative area, for a period of 3 years with the option to renew for a further 2 years. As is the standard procedure for public procurement of this type, the tender was advertised on e-tenders. It was obviously open to all persons to submit proposals.

Dublin City Council issued a press release at the time (April 2021) to promote and highlight the tender to businesses and to the public in the hope of generating interest amongst possible tenderers. The initiative also received significant coverage across a

number of media outlets and on social media. The matter of the tender was also reported on at several meetings of City Council and in reports to the City Recovery Taskforce and to City Councillors.

As part of the tender process, a tender was received in relation to the installation of a coffee retail unit with integrated toilet facilities at the location at Clonmel Street, off Harcourt Street, Dublin 2. This tender was accepted in summer 2021, but there were unfortunate unexpected delays with the installation of the required utility services, including electrical and other connections. These were resolved in recent months and the café / toilet unit was installed several weeks ago and is operating well.

The café / public toilet arrangement is temporary and under the arrangement, the public toilet is to be available for public use during the hours of operation of the café. Management and cleaning of the public toilet is the responsibility of the café operator. The terms of the tender provide that the café / public toilet will be in place for 3 years with an option available to Dublin City Council to extend for a further 2 years. A permit to position the café / public toilet on the public road has been issued to the café operator by Dublin City Council. The Office of City Recovery will monitor the situation on an ongoing basis. Copies of relevant documentation will be forwarded to the Councillor, as requested.

Q.23 COUNCILLOR MANNIX FLYNN

To ask the Chief Executive to issue a full report with regards any consultation process or input that councillors had in the capital expenditure report that was brought before the council recently. This report also to include how you and other city council officials came up with the list of projects contained in the report? Further, what real input will be afforded to councillors in the forthcoming presentations of this report to area committees? Also, can the CEO issue a full breakdown of what progress and what projects were advanced or progressed from last year's capital expenditure program?

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

Section 135 of the Local Government Act 2001 as amended requires the Chief Executive to bring a rolling three year Capital Programme, commencing in the subsequent financial year to the Elected Members, for noting. All projects require the approval of Members either through Part 8 or Section 138 process.

A range of National, Local and Corporate Policies informed the selection of projects included in the Capital programme. Within the Council, there is rigorous governance of Capital Projects by the Capital Projects Governance Board in line with the Public Spending Code.

The Capital Programme will be listed on all Area Committee agenda in January, which will facilitate a discussion by Members and a further opportunity to ask questions. A comprehensive Q&A document was circulated to the Councillors following the December Council meeting.

Regular updates are provided to Members on projects through the Monthly Management report to Council, the monthly Housing Delivery report and the quarterly report on Active Travel.

Q.24 COUNCILLOR MANNIX FLYNN

To ask the Chief Executive to initiate a process to take back the properties it gave almost 15 years ago to the Peter McVerry Trust on Townsend Street? These properties have been lying idle while we are in the middle of a chronic housing shortage. Indeed, Mr McVerry is never off the radio highlighting this housing

emergency and lack of accommodation yet we have a number of properties in the Townsend Street area given to him by DCC to house individuals under the auspices of the Peter McVerry Trust but they have been lying idle for in excess of 15 years. It is now time that DCC seize these properties from the McVerry Trust and quickly develop them into proper housing units. It is absolutely unacceptable that former city council housing is left in this manner and there is simply no excuse. DCC needs to act immediately to bring these housing vacant units back under the control of Dublin City Council and I call on the CEO to initiate this process.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

No's 180-187 Townsend Street is a four storey building comprising 18 residential 1 bed units and 2 commercial units, now unoccupied. Housing and Community Services instructed the Development Department in September 2017 to prepare a report to the City Council for the granting of a 31 year lease to PMVT for the redevelopment of the 18 apartments at the property for social housing. The Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage has approved Stage 3 funding for this project under the Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS). The Council subsequently bought out the leases on the 2 retail units No's 181 & 185 so that they could be converted to residential use. During preparation of the file it was also discovered that title to part of the yard to the rear of the property needed to be regularised with the Property Registration Authority. The buying out of the retail units and the regularisation of title resulted in a significant delay in presenting the disposal report to the City Council.

The proposal to grant the lease was agreed at the City Council meeting on 7th December 2020. A building licence permitting PMVT to refurbish the building will accompany the lease. Planning permission was granted for the redevelopment of the 18 apartments; planning permission 3391/17 refers. A separate subsequent planning permission for change of use from retail to residential was granted by An Bord Pleanála on 30th October 2020 for the 2 commercial units. The Council shall have 100% nomination rights to all 20 of the completed residential units.

The disposal terms to PMVT stipulate that the development of the 20 units must be fully completed and made fit for occupation within 36 months from the date of the Section 183 approval by the City Council. As the grant of the lease was agreed at the City Council meeting on 7th December 2020, PMVT have until 7th December 2023 to fully complete the redevelopment and make the units fit for occupation. Per the terms for the disposal agreed by the City Council in December 2020, it is stated in the legal agreement that should PMVT not proceed with the development or complete the development within the time limit specified, the benefit/ownership of the planning permission, design of the scheme and certification shall transfer, free of charge, to the City Council.

Dublin City Council's lease to PMVT is in the final stages and it is anticipated that the signing and sealing of the lease by both parties and the issuing of the building licence by the Council to PMVT will be completed in January 2023.

The PMVT have appointed a Contractor to the project, who took possession of the site in early December 2022. Enabling and site set up works have begun. The construction programme will commence on the 16th January 2023. The estimated timeline for the completion of refurbishment works is 12 months.

Dublin City Council will not be seeking to take this development back, contracts have been signed and work has commenced on site.

Q.25 COUNCILLOR MICHAEL WATTERS

To ask the Chief Executive to make changes to Dublin City Council's Citizen Hub website, by adding two new tabs under the Tree Maintenance section: Remove Stump and Plant New Tree.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

The addition of the two new tabs requested under the Tree Maintenance Section has been referred to our Citizen Hub team to determine if this can be facilitated.

Q.26 COUNCILLOR MICHAEL WATTERS

To ask the Chief Executive to remove 4 tree stumps and replace them with new trees on Gray Street (3 trees) and Reginald Street (1 tree), The Liberties, Dublin 8.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

Parks leave the tree stumps in place after felling of street trees to allow for the root system to die back naturally, thus reducing the impacts on the surrounding footpath when the stump is removed. This process normally takes 3 or 4 years. Parks will arrange for an inspection to be carried out to assess the suitability of these streets for future tree planting. Issues which may prevent the planting of trees would be the presence of underground and overhead services and the width of the footpath.

Q.27 COUNCILLOR NOELEEN REILLY

To ask the Chief Executive how many fines were issued and paid in 2020, 2021, 2022 for illegal dumping and to give a breakdown per area.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

Please find below details of litter fines issued under the Litter Pollution Acts and breakdown per Area as requested.

	2020	Central	North Central	North West	South Central	South East	Total
Fines issued		114	151	206	132	160	763
Fines Paid		48	75	66	34	79	302
Fines Cancelled on Appeal		21	31	21	17	24	114
Prosecutions initiated for unpaid fines		36	31	20	20	29	136
Direct Prosecutions initiated		0	0	0	1	0	1
Convictions obtained in court		2	1	0	1	3	7 Court closed due to Covid
	2021	Central	North Central	North West	South Central	South East	Total
Fines issued		193	147	118	334	122	914
Fines Paid		93	94	76	143	81	481
Fines Cancelled on Appeal		16	26	36	46	23	147

Prosecutions initiated for unpaid fines		40	48	75	116	32	311
Direct prosecutions initiated		0	0	0	1	0	1
Convictions obtained in court		9	3	0	10	1	23 Court closed due to Covid
	2022 To end of July 2022	Central	North Central	North West	South Central	South East	Total
Fines issued		130	62	11	169	103	475
Fines Paid		66	24	10	65	52	217
Fines Cancelled on Appeal		11	4	0	23	8	46
Prosecutions initiated for unpaid fines		19	9	5	43	6	82
Direct Prosecutions initiated		0	0	0	0	1	1
Convictions obtained in court		8	6	5	19	2	40

Q.28 COUNCILLOR NOELEEN REILLY

To ask the Chief Executive for the cost of illegal dumping in 2020, 2021, 2022 and to give a breakdown per area.

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

Q.29 COUNCILLOR DAMIAN O'FARRELL

To ask the Chief Executive to confirm the Part 8 procedure, specifically that under a Part 8 planning process, the members do have the power to approve a proposed development with whatever amendments they see fit.

Part 8 proposals sometimes have adjacent but unrelated elements within the same proposal for construction costs / expediency purposes.

Is it open to the Council Body to reject or remove elements and / or parts of a Part 8 proposal by way of Councillor amendment in order to ensure the balance of the Part 8 proposal is approved by Council to proceed to construction stage.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

In accordance with Section 179 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, members of a local authority have 6 weeks from the receipt of the chief executive's report to consider a proposed Part 8 development and the report of the chief executive.

Following consideration of the chief executive's report, the members of the local authority may then decide that the development shall be carried out as recommended in the chief executive's report unless by resolution, they decide to vary or modify the development, other than as recommended in the chief executive's report, or decide not to proceed with the development.

For a resolution to have effect, it must be passed not later than 6 weeks after the receipt of the chief executive's report, and in the case of a resolution not to proceed with a proposed development, it shall state the reasons for such resolution.

Q.30 COUNCILLOR DAMIAN O'FARRELL

To ask the Chief Executive to organise the unblocking of a roadside drain outside Clontarf Road, Clontarf D3 as a matter of urgency please.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

2 of the 2 gullies at 421 Clontarf Road were cleaned by Gully Cleaning staff on 21/12/2022. No defects were encountered.

Q.31 COUNCILLOR NOELEEN REILLY

To ask the Chief Executive for an update on bringing the waste management contract back into Public ownership.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

Of foot of a motion passed by the City Council in relation to this matter a Sub-Committee of the Climate Action, Environment and Energy Strategic Policy Committee was established.

The Waste Remunicipalisation subcommittee aims to produce policy recommendations to advance the project of a remunicipalised waste service in Dublin City. This would include, inter alia:

- Research with a third-level institute to develop a roadmap to a public waste management system for Dublin City
- Examining the challenges facing this project, such as labour, legal and financial matters.
- Recommendations for the Dublin City Development plan
- Recommendations for pilot programmes, including a shared urban composting scheme in each administrative area of the city

- The Institute of Public Administration is currently compiling a Research Study in relation to the remunicipalisation of waste collection services and it is likely that this study will be completed towards the end of January,

Thereafter, the research study will be considered by the Climate Action Energy and Environment Strategic Policy Committee, the Re-Municipalisation of Waste Collection Services Sub-Committee and ultimately the City Council

Q.32 COUNCILLOR NOELEEN REILLY

To ask the Chief Executive how many evictions was there from DCC housing in 2022 and for what reason.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

There were two evictions in 2022.

1 = Rent Arrears

2 = Illegal Occupier "drug related"

Q.33 COUNCILLOR SEAMÁS MCGRATTAN

To ask the Chief Executive for information on mobile libraries (**details supplied**).

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

During the pandemic DCC conducted a detailed review of the mobile library service. Taking account of factors such as the decline in the use of the service, the cost of operation, the age of the existing mobile library fleet, and the increasing challenges of traffic congestion in the city. The data showed that service was no longer fit for purpose and was both ineffective and inefficient to operate. The opportunity was taken to reimagine the three services offered by the mobile libraries in Dublin City (1) Scheduled Public Stops (2) School Stops, (3) Housebound Delivery.

The service to schools has been redefined with block loans and taster collections. The majority of schools are located between 1km and 2km from the nearest branch library. The Housebound Service supports some 22 institutions in the city and some individuals. In addition a dedicated delivery service also provide stock to library patrons who cannot access a branch.

A new mobile outreach 'Library in the Community' service was launched in 2021. Working closely with area offices, community development officers, local communities and schools. The service is more dynamic and flexible in nature and can respond to community needs in a targeted way.

The Library in the Community Team were at 36 events and engaged with 5286 people in 2022.

The sustainability of the service model is critical, and a tender for a new electric Library in the Community vehicle will be issued in 2023.

Q.34 COUNCILLOR SEAMÁS MCGRATTAN

To ask the Chief Executive to review the current policy of sweeping leaves from paths in autumn with a view to increasing personal available.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

Waste Management Services operate a leaf clearing programme citywide over the autumn and winter months. Priority is given to tree-lined streets, footpaths with heavy pedestrian usage and areas particularly prone to flooding. As leaf removal is labour

intensive and time consuming, this operation is monitored on a continuous basis to ensure that the best possible use is made of our resources, manpower and machinery wise. In addition we assist resident groups in clearing leaves from their areas and remove the collected leaves for them.

Q.35 COUNCILLOR SEAMÁS MCGRATTAN

To ask the Chief Executive would DCC consider working with Solas and other educational training programmes to up-skill apprenticeships on electric charging installation, solar panel installation and other new projects needed in the coming years?

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

The Human Resources Department will engage with Solas in relation to Apprenticeship Programmes which currently provide training in these specific skillsets.

Q.36 COUNCILLOR JOE COSTELLO

To ask the Chief Executive to give Bartra a deadline for commencement of their development at O 'Devaney Gardens

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

Final grant of Planning was received on the 16th May when the court case between Bartra and An Bord Pleanala was concluded. Bartra were to be on site within four weeks of the final grant of planning. However, delays to the O'Devaney Gardens Phase 1 project meant that Dublin City Council were unable to make the Phase 2 site fully available to Bartra without encumbrance. The Phase 1A scheme is now complete with handover expected by end December.

In the interim, delays to the programme have impacted several aspects of the contractual arrangements with the Developer. Unprecedented construction cost inflation and challenging events such as Brexit, the Covid Pandemic and the Ukraine Conflict have understandably presented difficulties which have had to be resolved between the Developer and DCC. Ongoing discussions in this regard have progressed well, which should enable the Developer to get on site early in early Q1 2023, subject to final agreement.

Bartra had tendered the contract for the enabling works in July 2022 and have completed evaluation of tender submissions. They are in a position to appoint an enabling works contractor and commence these works subject to conclusion of the above discussions. Dublin City Council wants to achieve value for money notwithstanding the context of elevated inflation.

In relation to the Private units Bartra have offered a large quantum of these units to be delivered as Cost Rental units. These will be among the first Cost Rental units delivered in Dublin City. Negotiations are ongoing with all parties to ensure value for money, adequate funding streams are in place, the delivered units fit the Cost Rental model and all relevant due diligence is undertaken.

Q.37 COUNCILLOR JOE COSTELLO

To ask the Chief Executive if DCC will partner with SEAI to establish physical one-stop shops in Dublin City to speed up insulation and retrofitting of homes and to provide information to residents who are not able to access this information online.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

The Energy Efficiency Retrofitting Programme primarily relates to social housing and is funded by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage with the

remainder subsidised by Dublin City Council. Any of the Council's own tenants who have any queries or cannot access information online, are welcome to contact the Mechanical and Energy Efficiency section within Housing Maintenance directly.

Private residents who own their homes can apply directly to SEAI to avail of relevant grant measures available for retrofitting their homes. The SEAI would be best placed to answer any questions in respect of private homeowners as they are responsible for managing these grants.

Q.38 COUNCILLOR JOE COSTELLO

To ask the Chief Executive what plans he will put in place to implement the recommendations of the Sustainable Development Goals Second National Implementation Plan, particularly in relation to a) staff & councillor training b) the appointment of an SDG Point of Contact/co-ordinator within the Council; c) collaboration with academic institutions in Dublin City (TU Dublin, DCU, UCD, Trinity College etc.) on SDG implementation in the City and the provision of training; d) and what plans he has to work with the Dublin City LCDC and PPN to promote awareness of actions that the Council is taking in relation to the SDGs; and e) if he would consider undertaking a voluntary local review similar to the one carried out by Bristol City Council in association with the University of Bristol – [Bristol and the SDGs - A Voluntary Local Review Of Progress 2019](#)

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

DCC's Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) in the Housing and Community Services Department, working collaboratively with DCC Culture, Recreation and Economic Services Department, is preparing a revised Dublin City Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) for adoption in 2023. A LECP Advisory Group comprising members from DCC's LCDC and Economic Development and Enterprise (EDE) SPC is established and is developing the initial resources required in 2023 to deliver a programme of stakeholder engagement and public consultation on draft LECP High Level Goals and proposed actions. The LECP Advisory Group includes nominees from Dublin City's PPN. The UN SDGs and their articulation under DCC's Corporate Plan 2020-2024 are an integral element of the work underway to finalise the draft LECP High Level Goals. The engagement and public consultation stages of the LECP forthcoming in 2023 will require promotion of actions that the Council is taking in relation to the SDGs as a corporate body. It is envisaged this will allow additional actions to be identified and proposed for inclusion under the draft LECP and ahead of its full adoption by Council in 2023.

Q.39 COUNCILLOR JOE COSTELLO

To ask the Chief Executive to put in place a salting and gritting programme for footpaths for the entire City area (and not just the central business district) considering the alarming statistics that show 9 out of 10 people who suffer a broken hip from a fall will die within one year (Morning Ireland, 14 December 2022).

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

As part of Dublin City Council's Winter Maintenance Plan, Road Maintenance Services' priority is to focus on the treatment of 300km of the City's main roads. This equates to approximately twenty-five percent of the overall road network in the City Council's administrative area. It includes the main public transport corridors, the main routes to the City's principal hospitals, access to Dublin Port, the main route from the City to the airport, access to the main bus, luas and train stations, access to the City Council's depots and salt storage facilities and access to the fire stations.

These routes are prioritised in order to ensure that public transport services are maintained across the City to the greatest extent possible, that there is continued access to the City's main hospitals, that emergency services can safely traverse the City's main roads, that the delivery of essential supplies, such as food and medicines, can continue, insofar as possible, to supermarkets, shops, pharmacies and businesses. This plan has served the City Council exceptionally well in the past, for example during Storm Emma, the severe snow and ice event that occurred in February 2018. The City Council's response effort during this event resulted in the City's main road network being kept in reasonable condition and therefore this allowed for essential journeys to be undertaken on these roads.

During the most recent period of severe weather, which ran from 6th December to 18th December 2022, Road Maintenance Services gritted the main roads on twelve consecutive nights. This activity was carried out between the hours of 2am and 7am. It involved the use of nine gritting lorries and over 1,000 tonnes of salt was spread on the road network during the event. This work was supplemented by the Division carrying out additional gritting during the day, tending to other ancillary winter maintenance activities and responding to other priority issues on the road network. The Division operated on a continuous 24-hour per day basis and the Division operated at full capacity in delivering this service during this period. This included the full use of the Division's resources including staff, lorries, plant, machinery and salt stocks. Despite the continued freezing conditions at night and temperatures remaining very low during the day, the Road Maintenance Services' Division maintained the City's main roads in a good condition over this twelve day period.

Additionally, in accordance with Dublin City Council's Winter Maintenance Plan, during periods of severe snow and ice, Road Maintenance Services seeks support from the other operational divisions, such as Waste Management Services, to assist with the response effort. In keeping with this '*Plan*', Waste Management Services were called upon to treat footpaths with salt at priority locations across the City. This included footpaths adjacent public transport hubs, footpaths with high pedestrian footfall and footpaths adjacent the main hospitals. This work was carried during the night and early morning hours. It involved up to two hundred Waste Management Services staff and the spreading over 15 tonnes of salt per day.

Any proposal to expand the current winter maintenance plan needs to take cognisance of the following points:

To expand the length of roads, footpaths and cycle lanes that are treated during these events, would require significant additional investment. For example, to treat all of the City's roads could potentially necessitate the quadrupling of Road Maintenance Services' resources, including staff, lorries, depots, salt and salt storage facilities. Similarly, any proposals to expand the treatment of footpaths would require a significant increase in Waste Management Services' resources. There are approximately 2,500km of footpaths in the City Council's administrative area. The spreading of salt on footpaths is both a slow and labour intensive activity. The additional funding required to provide this improved level of service would need to be diverted from other priority works and projects that are currently being progressed by the City Council. It is important to note that any decision on the re-allocation of funding to expand the winter maintenance response, will ultimately be a matter for the Elected Members.

Whilst the treatment of our main roads and footpaths improves their condition and safety during periods of severe snow and ice, it does not guarantee that they will be

completely clear of ice. There is an increased risk of slips and falls and therefore injury during these periods. It is therefore important that Dublin City Council continues to communicate and convey the message that people should exercise caution during these periods, that they should consider the risks before making a decision on whether or not they should make a journey and by what means they make that journey.

When the City Council's resources are directed to assist in the response to snow and ice events, it means the staff, plant and machinery assigned to this response are no longer available to deliver their core duties. Consequently normal core duties either cannot be performed or must be deferred to be performed at another time. For example, Waste Management Services staff reassigned to winter maintenance duties will not be available to empty bins or collect litter from the City's streets for the period they are assisting with snow and ice clearance. Similarly, Road Maintenance Services' staff, lorries, plant and machinery will not be available to repair defects on the road and footpath network. The delay or non-performance of these tasks can lead to other concerns and issues for the City Council.

Dublin City generally has mild conditions during with winter season. Periods of severe snow and ice are generally infrequent and when they do arrive they generally only last for a relatively short period of time. Dublin City Council's Winter Maintenance Plan and Severe Weather Plans have, in the main, served the City Council very well during periods of severe weather.

In keeping with the Winter Maintenance Plans and Severe Weather plans, the Severe Weather Assessment Team and the operational sections that were involved in the City Council's response will shortly carry out a lessons learned exercise, examining what worked well, what worked less well and where we could make improvements in our response going forward. Any recommendations arising from this exercise will be incorporated into our Winter Maintenance Plan and Severe Weather Plan in order to help improve our response and resilience to future severe weather events.

Q.40 COUNCILLOR DAITHÍ DOOLAN

To ask the Chief Executive how many extra beds for rough sleepers have been made available as part of the winter response, how many have been occupied, were extra support services employed to meet this extra demand, at what cost were these beds and services provided and will DRHE consider keeping these beds open for the foreseeable future?

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

In partnership with our service providers, the DRHE has increased capacity for singles and couples under the Cold Weather Strategy 2022/2023. The total additional capacity is 220 permanent beds and 40 extreme weather beds (with scope for additional capacity if and when required). All emergency accommodation is provided on a 24-hour basis, with meals. Extreme Weather contingency beds are temporary and activated on the issuing of weather warnings by Met Éireann, for the duration of the weather warning. Details of the enhanced services operated as part of the Cold Weather Strategy available on our website [here](#).

During the recent cold weather, 68 extreme weather beds were made available. The Freephone extended operation to 1am, working with the Dublin Outreach and Housing First Intake Teams to provide accommodation to those sleeping rough. The Focus Ireland Coffee Shop temporarily opened on a 24 hour basis to ensure that any person sleeping rough who did not want to access emergency accommodation had somewhere safe and warm to spend the night.

An average bed rate of €76.11 per night applies to beds under the Cold Weather Strategy. A report on the full costs is being prepared and will be shared with Cllr Doolan once completed.

Q.41 COUNCILLOR DAITHÍ DOOLAN

To ask the Chief Executive, to confirm what was the target for recruitment of DFB personnel as part of the agreement reached in early 2022, has that target been reached, how many people have been recruited, trained and employed as DFB staff since February 2022?

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

Dublin Fire Brigade and Dublin City Council management have entered into staffing negotiations with the trade unions under the auspices of the WRC. Dublin Fire Brigade have developed a workforce plan in line with best practice to establish an increased staffing level for the Brigade across all ranks and are currently in consultation on the final agreed staffing level. In tandem with this and in good faith as part of this consultative process DFB management have initiated implementation of their workforce plan with the recruitment of the following personnel:

- a. Recruit Class 1/2021 consisting of 35 recruits passed out and went operational in January 2022.
- b. Two recruit classes undertaken in 2022
 - i. Class 1/2022 - 44 recruits went operational in October 2022
 - ii. Class 2/2022 - 29 recruits went operational in November 2022
- c. A new recruitment campaign opened in October 2022 with 4786 applicants. This programme is currently at examination stage and it is intended to form a panel of 200 recruits beginning with the first intake of 48 recruits as early as possible in 2023. A second intake of a further 48 recruit class is planned for later in 2023.

Therefore, recent recruitment programmes have achieved a total of 108 new recruits entering service during 2022 and a further projected 96 recruits joining the ranks of Dublin Fire Brigade over the next year. The recruitment target for 2022 fell short by a small number of recruits. This was a result of withdrawal of candidates at the last minute and other candidates failing medical and physical examinations. DFB management will strive to ensure an active panel of recruits is available to the organisation to fill vacancies as they arise over the coming years.

Q.42 COUNCILLOR DAITHÍ DOOLAN

To ask the Chief Executive, to provide regular cleaning of the toilets in the dressing rooms in Le Fanu Park, D10?

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

Under the Terms and Conditions of Pavilion Lettings all clubs agree to the following - "The club will ensure that there is an adequate cleaning procedure and rota in place for all rooms, showers, toilets dressing rooms and storerooms after use. The club should ensure that the pavilion and store room are maintained in a clean, neat and safe condition after every use."

Q.43 COUNCILLOR DAITHÍ DOOLAN

To ask the Chief Executive to consider installing ramps at the corner of Drumfinn Ave and Cleegan Road?

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

This request for ramps at the corner of Drumfinn Avenue and Cleggan Road will be referred to the Area Engineer for assessment and report to the Transport Advisory Group for their consideration.

The Councillor will then be informed of the final recommendations of the Transport Advisory Group.

Q.44 COUNCILLOR DEIRDRE HENEY

To ask the Chief Executive to clarify the situation of new/reconstructed road from Clontarf (Coastal) Road at its junction onto Alfie Byrne Rd towards docklands and

1. provide map of previous junction here and proposed road under construction
2. confirm if old road had a left filter type banana swing onto Alfie Byrne Rd and if new road has nearer to a sharp left onto Alfie Byrne Rd
3. explain the logic in such a change
4. say if he realises the increased status of this road with much of the road infrastructure into or around the docklands being disrupted/shared into the future by new cycle path
5. say why this junction plan was drawn up, if it is too late to amend same now before the full negative effects of same become obvious
6. say if changes can be examined/proposed to this very negative measure which appears to want a reduction in traffic speed, more backlogs of traffic, extra emissions in traffic logjams and a general dis-improvement in traffic conditions
7. say if this design has been audited as value for money or otherwise
8. and if he can make a statement on the matter

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

The Clontarf to City Centre (C2CC) Project intends to deliver significant and enduring improvements to the cycling and bus infrastructure between Alfie Byrne Road and Talbot Street. Some of the improvements to be provided over the 2.7km route include;

- Provision of high quality, continuous, protected cycling facilities to cater for all ages and abilities to meet existing and future demand.
- Deliver street improvements by reconstructing all footpaths along the route, while creating eight community plazas.
- Deliver improved, safe and accessible pedestrian facilities by upgrading footpaths and installing additional pedestrian crossings along the entire corridor.
- Improve bus journey times and reliability with dedicated inbound and outbound bus lanes.
- Contribute to a reduction in transport emissions in line with the objectives of the Climate Action Plan by encouraging a modal shift to active travel and public transport use.

Specifically at the Clontarf Road/ Alfie Byrne Road junction the proposed cycletrack connects to existing infrastructure providing a dedicated cycletrack along the coast. The trail along the coast from Fairview to Clontarf is a busy and extremely popular route for pedestrians and cyclists alike. Providing safe cycling and pedestrian infrastructure is one of the main objectives of the C2CC scheme.

Figure 1 (as enclosed herein) illustrates the junction arrangement at the Alfie Byrne Road which existed prior to the C2CC Scheme commencing. With this configuration, whilst travelling inbound and arriving at the end of the coastal cycle path, a cyclist is then required to cross (i) the left hand slip from Clontarf Rd onto Alfie Byrne Rd (ii) the Alfie Byrne Road itself with inbound and outbound lanes and (iii) the left turn slip from

Alfie Byrne Road onto Clontarf Road. Similarly when travelling outbound in order to access the coastal trail, cyclists were required to cross the Clontarf Road, and then the left turn slip from Clontarf Road onto Alfie Byrne Road. Pedestrians and other vulnerable road users were also required to complete these multiple crossings in order to get from one side of the road to the other.

During the design process, in line with current best practice, it was identified that the current configuration did not give sufficient priority or protection to cyclists and pedestrians alike. The design as illustrated in Figure 2 (enclosed herein) was subsequently developed. The dedicated traffic left-hand turn lane from Clontarf Road onto Alfie Byrne Road develops almost at the exact same location as it did prior to the scheme commencing. The slip lane which existed previously is removed but the dedicated filter lane up to the traffic signals remains.

For cyclists the new configuration provides for a smooth progression from the coastal cycletrack onto the new inbound segregated cycletrack being provided as part of the Clontarf to City Centre scheme. Only one crossing of the Alfie Byrne Road is now required compared to the three separate crossing points which existed previously. The inbound configuration shall also facilitate cyclists who wish to continue from the coastal trail along Alfie Byrne Road to East Wall Road. A single dedicated crossing point of the Clontarf Road shall facilitate outbound cyclists accessing the coastal track. Pedestrians and vulnerable users shall also benefit greatly from the proposed layout with increased priority and fewer crossing points.

Works have been ongoing on this junction over the past number of months and shall continue, particularly on the outbound lanes in early 2022. New traffic signals shall be installed as part of the works with close cooperation and ongoing monitoring of the junction provided by the DCC Traffic Department (**see maps attached**).

Q.45 COUNCILLOR DEIRDRE HENEY

To ask the Chief Executive to please refer to location at (**details supplied**) (and as raised in October 2016 see attached reply) and say if he can arrange to have shrubbery cut back as residents are fearful of their safety, particularly in dark evenings, and LED lighting is weak.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

The street lighting was upgraded to LED in early 2017 and the light levels meet the required standard. There are no plans for further improvements to the public lighting in (**details supplied**).

Q.46 COUNCILLOR DEIRDRE HENEY

To ask the Chief Executive in relation to (**details supplied 1**), please arrange to
A. Reinstate the yellow junction box now faded and
B. Install a yellow junction box to assist patients/clients access/egress from (**details supplied 2**).

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

The Area Traffic Engineer will investigate proposed new yellow box on (**details supplied 1**) and also inspect condition of yellow box on (**details supplied 2**) and liaise with the Traffic Officer responsible for road marking relining programme.

Q.47 COUNCILLOR DEIRDRE HENEY

To ask the Chief Executive, in relation to Richmond Road, Drumcondra, Dublin 3, if he will please examine

1. if the traffic situation outside can be examined;
 - (a) to see what can be done at this dangerous spot on a bend where carriageway has been narrowed by footpath extension which should have been set back and telegraph pole and public lighting column moved back
 - (b) the potentially dangerous and difficult situation that now pertains for 2 vehicles to pass one another
 - (c) if something can be done now to correct matters and if not, say if a commitment to solve the problem with an improvement can be conditioned into any of the several apartment development planning applications coming up for construction
 - (d) if statement can be made on the matter
and
2. if the CE can report on his solution to problems at/between numbers 35/55 where:
 - (a) vehicles cannot pass one another due to narrowness of road and parking
 - (b) plant boxes recently placed solve one problem of vehicles driving on footpath but create other difficulties
 - (c) serious nuisance is being experienced by residents
 - (d) disputes between motorists asked/forced to reverse are at times becoming nasty
and
 - (e) with extra traffic diverting away from road works in Fairview he will bring forward proposals to satisfy local residents and keep traffic flowing.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

Traffic TAG have proposed a Pay & Display/Permit Parking (P&D/PP) scheme on Richmond Road to mitigate the traffic & safety problems. The Parking Section sent a layout drawing of proposed Pay & Display/Permit Parking (P&D/PP) scheme to residents on 07/11/2022 with a closing date of 19/12/2022 to vote whether they approve/disapprove of the proposed parking scheme. The result of the ballot is expected soon and if the result is positive then the scheme will be implemented as soon as possible in the New Year.

Q.48 COUNCILLOR BRIEGE MACOSCAR

To ask the Chief Executive to advise if measures to address the persistent vandalism of the football pitch in Coultrey Park are being considered and can a fence be installed to prevent the entrance of vehicles onto the pitch?

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

Parks services will arrange for an inspection of the pitch any list any possible solutions for consideration during future parks improvement programme, subject to available budget.

Q.49 COUNCILLOR BRIEGE MACOSCAR

To ask the Chief Executive to outline how DCC plans to administer the two million euro in funding recently announced by the Taoiseach for the implementation of the Ballymun A Brighter Future report?

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

A letter dated 5th December 2022 from An Taoiseach confirmed a €2 million fund will be made available to Dublin City Council from by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage to support various initiatives and projects within the Ballymun area. Dublin City Council and the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage will meet in the coming weeks to agree the criteria for which the funding may be drawn down and clarity around DCC co-funding / match funding some of the improvements.

As you are aware we are progressing a number of housing projects in Ballymun including a number of Dublin City Council Affordable homes, the assurance of this funding will assist us in trying to ensure that sufficient community facilities and services are in place for new residents and to continue to support the on-going needs of the existing community.

Q.50 COUNCILLOR BRIEGE MACOSCAR

To ask the Chief Executive to investigate the possibility of replacing the yield sign at the junction of **(details supplied)** with a Stop Sign in order to slow down traffic which enters the Park?

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

According to the Traffic Signs Manual: where visibility is sufficient, a yield sign may be used in place of a stop sign. As there is no obstruction to visibility at the junction of **(details supplied)**, a yield sign and road markings are provided instead of a stop sign.

Q.51 COUNCILLOR BRIEGE MACOSCAR

To ask the Chief Executive to provide an update on when construction is expected to start on the planned upgrade of the roundabouts on Jamestown Road and St Margaret's Road in Finglas?

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

The Jamestown Road and St. Margaret's Road / McKee Ave. roundabouts are due to be upgraded as part of the Finglas Area Roundabouts Scheme (DCC/19/0006), which is scheduled for delivery in Phase 1 of the Active Travel Network Programme.

The Preliminary Design has been completed for the Jamestown Road roundabout with Detailed Design commencing. The outputs of the design work will determine the cost and programme for the construction phase, which is subject to funding approval.

Tender documents are being prepared for the St. Margaret's Road / McKee Ave. roundabout. Subject to approval from the funding body, it is envisaged the scheme will be tendered for construction in Q1/Q2 2023.

Q.52 COUNCILLOR DECLAN MEENAGH

To ask the Chief Executive if the city will reinstate the office of Urban Forester and to ask when a new tree strategy will be published.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

A Tree Officer has been in place within the Parks, Biodiversity and Landscapes Service since 2019. While it is planned to have a new Tree Strategy in place in the third quarter of the present year, Parks, Biodiversity and Landscapes Service are continuing to work in accordance with the guidelines of the existing DCC Tree Strategy as well as per sound arboriculture practices.

Q.53 COUNCILLOR DECLAN MEENAGH

To ask the Chief Executive by how much has the city's spending on its urban forestry resource increased since Dáil Éireann declared a climate and biodiversity emergency on 9 May 2019? How much additional government funding has been made available for this and if he will make a statement on the matter.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

In 2016 the Parks, Biodiversity & Landscapes Services published the Dublin City Tree Strategy to promote good arboricultural practice in the management of individual trees

and the 'urban forest' in Dublin City. While the budget for the Tree Care Programme has increased significantly over the last ten years and the budget for tree surveys, tree maintenance (pruning, tree and stump removal) and tree planting has been increased from €742,970.00 in 2019 to €843,600.00 in 2022 and €964,000.00 in 2023, a 15% increase in the current year.

The following grants have been sourced from the Dept. of Heritage, Culture and the Gaeltacht to fund a Dublin City Urban Woodland and Hedgerow Survey:

2019 - €14,500 – Woodlands and Hedgerow Survey

2020 - €15,000 – Woodlands and Hedgerow Survey

2020 - €3,905 – Woodlands Educational Booklet

Project outcomes:

- Habitat surveys of key woodlands located in Dublin City Council at Bushy Park (Dodder), St Anne's Park (Santry) and Tolka Valley Park (Tolka).
- Updated City Hedgerow Survey (2006) of 30 sites city-wide, which measured 4,670 m of hedgerow at that time.
- Produced site-specific management guidance.
- Produced a 'Short Guide to the Woodlands at Bushy Park, St Anne's Park and Tolka Valley Park.

Dublin City Council is also a partner organisation in the Dublin Mountain Partnership which is supporting Coillte Nature to replant 9ha of native woodland in the Dublin Mountains to replace former coniferous woodland.

Q.54 COUNCILLOR VINCENT JACKSON

To ask the Chief Executive to please look at the window replacements for **(details supplied)**, he is awaiting window replacements for the past 5 years and his home was measured for the same said windows and he is still awaiting replacements. With the huge increases in energy cost the old windows are causing serious financial hardship.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

The Joinery Workshop called to this tenant to measure up for new wooden windows. However, the tenant said they only wanted PVC windows and turned down these works.

Q.55 COUNCILLOR VINCENT JACKSON

To ask the Chief Executive to please look at the housing application of **(details supplied)**.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

A meeting has been scheduled with a Housing Advisor 10th January 2023 @ 11.30am. If this is not convenient contact Housing Allocations directly to reschedule.

Q.56 COUNCILLOR VINCENT JACKSON

To ask the Chief Executive to look into placing a CCTV camera along Drumfinn Ave Ballyfermot behind the Ballyfermot Civic Centre to deter the ongoing abandoning of domestic waste left once or twice every other weekend here at this location. In addition, I have asked that a generic A4 Waste leaflet be made offering people options for a greener environment i.e. waste segregation, bulky waste collection of DCC i.e. €40 3 item collection, who to report dumping to in DCC, I am asking can this be done by DCC as a litter prevention tool.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

Dublin City Council are not in a position to install CCTV cameras until all the provisions of the Circular Economy and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 2022 and a new service provider are in place.

In accordance with Dublin City Council's Climate Action Plan, in order to reduce the amount of paper produced and to prevent the creation of litter, leaflets are not produced. Instead, all information is available on Dublin City Council's website, on Citizen Hub and on all our social media platforms. This method of communicating information to our citizens has been found to be more accurate and is available 24 hours a day.

Information on waste segregation and bulky waste collections should also be available from the Ballyfermot Civic Centre.

Meanwhile, Litter Wardens will continue to patrol the area on a regular basis and search bags for evidence in order to take enforcement action.

Q.57 COUNCILLOR VINCENT JACKSON

To ask the Chief Executive to please look into the following: **(details supplied)** is awaiting the replacement of the back of house windows for the past few years can I have some indication when these works will be done as the lady is very anxious the works be done as a priority.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

The order for these windows is currently with our Joinery Workshop. Given the circumstances, we have spoken to the Joinery Workshop and requested that they prioritise the fabrication of these windows for the tenant.

Q.58 COUNCILLOR SOPHIE NICOULLAUD

To ask the Chief Executive when the purchase of 15 Bluebell Avenue will be finalised? People on the housing lists, would be good to see this purchase happen as soon as possible.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

This acquisition is at conveyancing / legals stage. We anticipate this purchase will conclude in the coming weeks.

Q.59 COUNCILLOR SOPHIE NICOULLAUD

To ask the Chief Executive if DCC has received the document needed from the Walkinstown community Hall in order to be in a position to facilitate bingo there. Elderlies in the area really miss this social outing they used to look forward to it. For some it is the only outing they used to have.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

DCC are awaiting the return of documents from the legal representatives of the group.

Q.60 COUNCILLOR SOPHIE NICOULLAUD

To ask the Chief Executive to ask SDCC to lengthen the pedestrian crossing time at the Ashleaft intersection of Cromwellsfort and ST Agnes in D12. Also to ask what would need to happen to have a diagonal pedestrian crossing there?

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

This junction is not in Dublin City Council, it is a South Dublin County Council junction.

Q.61 COUNCILLOR SOPHIE NICOULLAUD

To ask the Chief Executive what is the logic applied for ticketing parked cars recently on O'Donoghue Street between Ring Street and Railway Avenue in Inchicore?

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

Dublin Street Parking Services regularly patrol this location and carry out enforcement action where a vehicle is parked illegally.

There have been recent enforcements at this location for parking opposite a continuous white line and parking on a footpath.

Q.62 COUNCILLOR DECLAN FLANAGAN

To ask the Chief Executive as to what measures he is taking to request funding from central government to deal with the deficit in the roads budget in Dublin City Council's area & to deal with the potholes in some of our main roads in the city.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

Dublin City Council's Road Maintenance Services' Division received circa €5.4 Million in funding from the National Transport Authority in 2022. The National Transport Authority operates under the aegis of the Department of Transport. This funding was invested in the repair of footpaths, cycle lanes and shared bus and cycle lanes. Road Maintenance Services' plan to prepare a similar application to the National Transport Authority for funding this year.

Q.63 COUNCILLOR DECLAN FLANAGAN

To ask the Chief Executive to have the gullies steam cleaned/pressure washed in the following estates (**details supplied**).

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

The gullies were cleaned at the following locations by the Gully Cleaning staff: (**Details supplied**). Please note that due to parked cars and other obstructions, it is often not possible to clean every gully on a street. Any problems noted requiring construction work to remedy have been referred to the *Drainage Operations* Division.

Q.64 COUNCILLOR DECLAN FLANAGAN

To ask the Chief Executive for an update re: plans to pedestrianise College Green Plaza and to provide proposed timelines & costings for this project.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

In Q4 2022, Dublin City Council published stage one of an international competition to procure a Multi-disciplinary Design Team for the project.

Proposed project timelines will be established once the Design Team has been appointed.

Regarding project costings, in line with the NTA Cost Management Guidelines & the Public Spending Code, a preliminary cost estimate will be prepared once the preliminary design has been completed.

Q.65 COUNCILLOR DECLAN FLANAGAN

To ask the Chief Executive to have small trees planted on the following road (**details supplied**) that will be similar to neighbouring roads. This request was asked previously and was to happen but still nothing. Can I get an update?

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

Parks, Biodiversity and Landscape Services has no plans to carry out works at this location. The narrow footpaths located along **(details supplied)** do not provide enough space for the successful planting of trees. There is a considerably long list of projects similar to installations on neighbouring roads and **(details supplied)** can be added to the end of this list for consideration its suitability.

Q.66 COUNCILLOR JANET HORNER

To ask the Chief Executive Under what circumstance counterflow cycling is facilitated on otherwise one-way streets in Dublin (e.g. unsegregated on Leinster Street or segregated at the top of Capel Street) and whether there are any plans to expand the network of counterflow cycling across the city as has been done in Brussels for example in recent years?

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

The Active Travel Programme Office will implement two way cycling on one way streets on segments of the Active Travel Network. This will take the form of both segregated and unsegregated in line with the Brussels approach. A review is still ongoing on how this can be best implemented based on current legislation.

Q.67 COUNCILLOR JANET HORNER

To ask the Chief Executive to provide a pedestrian crossing across the Ballybough Road outside the Clonliffe House?

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

The Area Engineer will investigate the location in Ballybough for proposed pedestrian crossing and determine if it meets the warrant & can be added to the list.

Q.68 COUNCILLOR JANET HORNER

To ask the Chief Executive For details of what has been applied for under the €8 NTA grant for footpath upgrades and when the schedule and plans for upgrades will be made available for Councillor engagement and feedback?

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

€8-Million was included in the Capital Budget for investment in improvement works on footpaths at various locations across the City. It was noted that this level of funding would be contingent on the National Transport Authority providing a grant of €6-Million to Dublin City Council for footpath renewal, as part of the Active Travel Programme. Discussions on the level of funding to be made available for this initiative, will take place between the National Transport Authority, the Active Travel Project Office and Road Maintenance Services during January and February 2023.

Proposed footpaths to be upgraded will be included in Road Maintenance Services' Annual Works Programme for 2023. This Programme will be presented to the Elected Members during the first quarter of 2023. Investment will be targeted at the repair of those footpaths in the poorest condition and that present the greatest risk of injury to pedestrians.

Q.69 COUNCILLOR JANET HORNER

To ask the Chief Executive For details of the budget drawn down for retrofitting by Dublin City Council over the past 5 years, the programme for retrofitting and regeneration for 2023 and the estimated target to have completed by the end of the year?

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

The following table provides details of the budget drawn down for the Energy Efficiency Retrofitting programme over the past 5 years:

Year	Budget Drawn Down (Claimed)
2018	€ 3,857,907
2019	€ 5,601,431
2020	€ 566,548
2021	€ 1,587,953
2022	€ 5,549,155

The arrival of the COVID-19 pandemic in Q1 2020 had a significant impact on the roll out of the programme as retrofitting works are carried out in properties with tenants in situ. Although there were various construction shutdowns throughout this period, we nevertheless endeavoured to continue the programme as much as possible.

The Energy Efficiency Retrofitting programme will continue in 2023 across all areas and the estimated target to have completed by the end of the year will be dictated by our funding allocation from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

Q.70 COUNCILLOR JAMES GEOGHEGAN

To ask the Chief Executive if further to the reply given at the last council meeting if he will detail when the cost construction report commissioned following an approved motion of July of 2021 authored by Ronan Lyons will be published in full, without any further delays.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

While the Report is in its final draft form part of the exercise required the consultants to engage with the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government on the approval process. This is scheduled to take place in early January following which the report will be published.

Q.71 COUNCILLOR CIERAN PERRY

To ask the Chief Executive to provide an update on progress on an updated Tree Strategy for the council? Can he confirm the current policy in relation to pruning and removing non-diseased trees?

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

It is planned to have a new Tree Strategy in place in the third quarter of the present year, in the meantime, Parks, Biodiversity and Landscapes Service are continuing to work in accordance with the guidelines of the existing DCC Tree Strategy as well as per sound arboricultural practices, which applies to tree pruning and the removal of trees.

Q.72 COUNCILLOR CIERAN PERRY

To ask the Chief Executive to confirm whether all Dublin City Council public offices have reverted to pre-COVID opening hours?

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

The public counters in the North West Area Offices are currently open from 9.30a.m 1.00pm (Mon – Fri) and by appointment only in the afternoons.

The current opening times are considered adequate to cater for existing levels of demand at both public counters.

Crumlin Area Office currently opens 3 days a week but hopes to revert to 5 days sometime in the New Year.

The South Central Area Offices opening times as follows:

Ballyfermot Area Office – Walk in service 9.30 a.m. – 1 p.m. Monday to Friday and afternoons by appointment.

SWIC Area Office – Walk in service 9.30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday to Friday.

The current opening times are considered adequate to cater for existing levels of demand at both public counters.

The Cabra area office is open to the public from 10am till 1pm Monday to Friday. Phones and e-mail are answered from 9am till 5pm.

The Central Area Offices on Seán McDermott Street are open to the public from 9.30am to 4pm Monday to Friday.

The Darndale Housing Office has reopened to the public using pre-covid opening hours.

The Bunratty Area Office has reopened to the public using pre-covid opening hours. The public counter here will be reopened also in the coming weeks.

Q.73 COUNCILLOR CIERAN PERRY

To ask the Chief Executive to provide an update on progress on my motion to the May 2022 city council meeting in relation to proactively progressing the completion of the Energy Efficiency Programme?

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

Following the successful completion of Phase One of the Energy Efficiency Retrofitting Programme, Dublin City Council took the decision to commence Phase Two of the Programme in 2018 in the absence of Departmental funding confirmation. Dublin City Council funded the commencement of this phase of the programme from its own internal capital funding budgets in the interests of our tenants and the programme as a whole.

Dublin City Council then continued the Energy Efficiency Retrofitting Programme, all be it at reduced capacity and in very challenging times, throughout the COVID19 pandemic.

Dublin City Council had a target from the Department of Housing, Panning and Local Heritage to retrofit 114 properties to a B2/Cost Optimal standard through the Energy Efficiency Retrofitting programme in 2022. Although a portion of 2022 was still governed by COVID restrictions which had a significant impact on the programme as works are carried out in occupied properties, we succeeded in upgrading 201 houses.

As noted in the motion referred in May 2022, Dublin City Council drafted a submission under the Public Consultation on Ireland's National Recovery and Resilience Plan

(NRRP). This was in response to the EU's Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) which aims to mitigate against the economic and social impact of the pandemic. In order to access funding, Ireland had to develop a NRRP for approval by the EU. The NRRP had to set out reforms and investments to be supported by the facility which were aligned with a number of EU flagship areas, one of which was Retrofitting. Dublin City Council submitted a comprehensive submission which included our Energy Efficiency Retrofitting Programme. It is envisaged that national funding received by government under the plan will result in an increase in funding nationally for the Energy Efficiency Retrofitting Programme.

Dublin City Council have now upgraded approximately 78% /in excess of 9,000 houses under the Energy Efficiency Retrofitting Programme to date and will continue the programme into 2023 and beyond subject to the continuation of Departmental funding.

We would also hope in 2023, in the absence of COVID restrictions, to increase the roll out of our Energy Efficiency Retrofitting Programme with a full calendar year of works.

In summary, Dublin City Council are proactively progressing the completion of the Energy Efficiency Retrofitting Programme and we would envisage that the increase in national funding will, in essence, reduce our projected timeframe to complete the retrofitting of our remaining houses under the Programme.

Q.74 COUNCILLOR CIERAN PERRY

To ask the Chief Executive to detail the number of houses purchased annually through the Tenant Purchase Scheme since 2017?

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

The Incremental Tenant Purchase Scheme was introduced in 2016 for the purchase of Local Authority properties. If a Tenant meets the eligibility criteria, the Tenant is afforded the opportunity to purchase their tenancy under the Incremental Tenant Purchase Scheme.

The following numbers of houses have been purchased by Tenants under the Incremental Tenant Purchase Scheme since its introduction in 2016.

YEAR	HOUSES SOLD
2016	1
2017	56
2018	45
2019	34
2020	25
2021	18
2022	27

A total of 206 houses have been sold under the Incremental Tenant Purchase Scheme to date.

Q.75 COUNCILLOR TERENCE FLANAGAN

To ask the Chief Executive to respond to the following: **(details supplied)** regarding cycle lane / walkway. When is work to commence, the cost and length of time the project will take.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

The **(details supplied)** greenway is being delivered as part of the **(details supplied)** River Restoration and Greenway Project. The tender process for this project has been completed and the successful tenderer for the project commenced design work in July 2022.

The **(details supplied)** River Restoration and Greenway Project is intended to provide approximately 6.4km of high quality pedestrian and cycle facilities from North Bull Island Special Area of Conservation to Santry, through Raheny and Coolock. The scheme will be developed with Fingal County Council to provide an onward connection to **(details supplied)** Demesne.

The greenway will be delivered in parallel with the river restoration work to provide enhanced biodiversity, water quality and flood alleviation benefits along the **(details supplied)** River.

The route option selection and design work is expected to be completed within 24 months of the design team's appointment. The outputs of the option selection and design work will determine the programme and costs for the construction phase of the project.

A series of public engagement events were held in September & October 2022 to gather feedback to inform the route option selection and design. Public consultations with the local communities and elected representatives will continue throughout the project phases.

Q.76 COUNCILLOR TERENCE FLANAGAN

To ask the Chief Executive to respond to the following: to ask when the **(details supplied)** was last cleaned of debris, the cost & how often it is cleaned. Is there a schedule of works in place?

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

The Water Pollution Control (WPC) section of the Protection of Waterbodies Office is responsible for the protection of waters within Dublin City Councils administrative area, predominantly under the Water Pollution Act of 1977. This includes the **(details supplied)** from the Santry Demesne to where it outfalls into Dublin Bay, north of the Causeway Road at Bull Island.

The WPC section is responsible for removing debris, objects or bulky waste from rivers which has or can cause an obstruction to flow. Flooding obstructions are typically identified by the section during routine river sampling or pollution investigation work. Work to remove flooding obstructions is actioned as soon as practicably possible following its identification.

We also manage the maintenance of 32 river screens/racks, of which 8 are located along the **(details supplied)**. Screens are typically located immediately upstream of culverts and bridges, to help mitigate blockages or damage occurring therein. Screens are maintained by the section on at least a bi-weekly basis or as required.

The **(details supplied)** was most recently maintained on the 13/12/22, specifically the stretch of river between Clonshaugh Road to Barryscourt Road. Previous to that, a rigorous river clean-up was conducted post Halloween between the Woodlawn estate and Clonshaugh Road. On both occasions, a significant quantity of bulky waste was removed from the channel including shopping trollies, pallets and tyres. Pictures of the waste removed from the river last December are included below for reference.

In addition to our prescribed work, WPC regularly coordinate river cleaning activities with various local groups, including the Raheny Tidy Towns Committee. In support of the 2022 tidy town's competition, the section organised cleaning of the Santry in Raheny village to coincide with the committee's efforts.

With regard to costs, the Water Pollution Control section is a long established operational and maintenance section of Dublin City Council' Environmental Protection Division, with day to day operations and staffing financed through our revenue budgets. Our maintenance work is both scheduled (as referred to above) and reactive to public engagement/reports. Correspondence is frequently received via our dedicated email address waterpollution@dublincity.ie from the public, councillors and other stakeholders, therefore day to day maintenance costs per site visit, per river are not readily available.

Q.77 COUNCILLOR TERENCE FLANAGAN

To ask the Chief Executive to respond to the following: Who is in charge of this graveyard (**details supplied**)? It is completely overgrown. Can DCC do anything about advising the owner and getting them to clean it up?

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

(**details supplied**) is a protected structure, on the City Council's Record of Protected Structures, Volume 4 of the Dublin City Development Plan 2022-2028.

It is understood that the cemetery is in the ownership of the Representative Church Body of the Church of Ireland. It is the duty of each owner and each occupier of a Protected Structure to ensure the structure or any element of it of special interest is not endangered (Section 58 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended)). An inspection of the graveyard will be undertaken with a view to identifying action required.

Q.78 COUNCILLOR TERENCE FLANAGAN

To ask the Chief Executive to respond to the following: are there any plans to make improvements to the following DCC premises in (**details supplied**).

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

Regarding (**details supplied 1**), a scoping exercise is currently underway to examine the feasibility of future improvement and refurbishment of the building.

Dublin Fire Brigade (DFB) maintain a policy of allocating vehicle with the activity and mileage of specific stations. (**Details supplied 1**) station have recently had an upgrade of a fire tender replacing a unit with a 171 tender. As the fleet is upgraded with new tenders, vehicles will be rotated.

DFB received 2 new tenders at the end of 2021 and 2 new tenders at the start of 2022 and are anticipating funding from the department for 2 new tenders in 2023.

Q.79 COUNCILLOR NAOISE Ó MUIRÍ

To ask the Chief Executive Further to the successful re-opening of Raheny Library this summer and by way of update to my Question 73 to the April 2022 City Council meeting can the CEO provide a final update on the refurbishment works to cover:

- list of works undertaken
- list of works remaining (if any)
- final overall spend.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

The following work has been carried out to date:

- Re-flooring of adult and junior libraries plus staff areas, public toilet, with safety flooring in staff canteen, staff toilets and main entrance area.
- Fitting of new blinds
- New ceiling grids and tiles throughout adult and junior library
- New LED lighting throughout
- Re-painting of interior including woodwork, plus exterior gates
- Tree pruning and removal
- Installation of library stock security gates and new public use kiosks
- Updates to PCs to include new library management system and installing of systems to all computer hardware, public and staff
- Fitting of replacement aluminium louver grills to outside of building as part of ventilation system
- Delivery and installation of full new library shelving throughout
- Professional cleaning, re-shelving and preparations for re-opening
- December 2022 saw the installation of the My Open Library (MOL) facility, meaning an unstaffed, self-service provision to cover all hours outside of normal opening from 8:00am to 10:00pm 365 days a year. Normal staffed hours continue as before. This allows the flexibility for local library users to avail of the services at Raheny Library at a time that suits them best. More information on MOL here: <https://www.dublincity.ie/library/blog/my-open-library-raheny> The implementation of MOL involved works to security, lighting automation and various aspects to ensure the smooth running of the building while unstaffed.

There are no remaining works at this time for Raheny Library

The overall spend on this refurbishment work was **€354,918.78** in total, including **€78,120.55** in funding by the Dept of Rural & Community Development, for the implementation of MOL

Q.80 COUNCILLOR NAOISE Ó MUIRÍ

To ask the Chief Executive to provide an update on the partnership with Raheny Shamrocks to facilitate the provision of a club-house on DCC lands near CARA Hall. Can he provide any information available in terms of latest status of the Lease process, updated timeline for planning application and any other relevant matters?

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

The City Council approved the grant of a 35 year lease to Raheny Shamrock Athletic Club on 1st November 2021, for lands at All Saints Park, south of the CARA Hall building in order for the Club to construct a clubhouse.

Dublin City Council's Law Department has issued the lease for the lands to the Club's Solicitor. Raheny Shamrock AC advised on 9th December 2022 that the Club and their Solicitor are currently reviewing the lease and they intend to respond to the Council on the matter in January 2023.

The Club submitted a planning application on 8th December 2022 for the proposed single-storey Sports Club building - application reference 4733/22 refers. A decision has not been made on the application as yet.

The Club has a period of twenty four months from the date of the grant of statutory approval by the Elected Members (1st November 2021) to obtain planning permission and to complete construction of the clubhouse on the subject site.

Q.81 COUNCILLOR NAOISE Ó MUIRÍ

To ask the Chief Executive to provide an update on the roll-out of new/replacement public litter bins in the Raheny area to include:

- Installations/repairs in 2022
- Any remaining installations/repairs to be done by year end
- Plans for 2023 for the Raheny area in this regard.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

In January 2022 Waste Management Services installed multiple Big Belly bins in Raheny Village and surrounds. In July 2022 the bin outside De La Salle School was replaced. In August 2022 a new bin was installed at Next Coffee Shop on Station Road. There are no outstanding installations or repairs for this area to be done by 2022 year end.

Each individual request for bin installations, repairs or removals received in 2023 will be investigated on a case by case basis and appropriate actions taken.

Q.82 COUNCILLOR NAOISE Ó MUIRÍ

To ask the Chief Executive to confirm that the laneway connecting Harmonstown DART station to Ennafort Road in Raheny is in the charge of Dublin City Council? If not, can the CEO confirm why not? Can the CEO confirm the frequency by which the laneway should be cleaned under current arrangements and confirm when the laneway was last cleaned?

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

One part of this laneway is in charge of Dublin City Council and the other section of this laneway is not in charge. **(See attachments)**

Waste Management Services will have the section of this laneway in charge cleaned during the first week of January 2023. Laneways are monitored regularly and cleaned at least every three months.

Q.83 COUNCILLOR DEIRDRE CRONIN

To ask the Chief Executive to commit to commissioning an independent survey of environmental conditions in Emmet Buildings and undertake to carry out improvements in the complex based on independent report findings. Can DCC share parameters as well as anonymised report results with Emmet Buildings Residents Association?

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

Dublin City Council carried out Conditional Surveys on almost 81% all of our units in 2018/2019. Following on from these surveys, numerous works have been carried out. We have also engaged independent surveys of units, which are investigated for condensation issues. I will add any units in Emmett Buildings to this list in the New Year. Under GDPR rules and generally because these reports have financial information on them, we don't share them. However I have no issue in drafting up an overall report with bullet points of their findings.

Q.84 COUNCILLOR DEIRDRE CRONIN

To ask the Chief Executive to confirm that a new Masterplan is required for SDRA11 which is 13 hectares in size in order to meet the obligations of Appendix 3 of the new Development Plan which requires a masterplan for any sites greater than 0.5 hectares.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

It is envisaged that a masterplan would be prepared for SDRA 11, as part of any future planning application progressed for the site. Chapter 13 of the Dublin City Development plan 2022-2028 sets out a framework plan and guiding principles for each SDRA.

Appendix 3 of the plan sets out the strategy to achieve height and density in the city. The objective is to promote a design led approach to optimise height and density at appropriate locations. SDRA 11 is identified as an appropriate location for greater height and density. It is stated in the plan that it is a requirement that for any significant scheme (on sites greater than 0.5ha) seeking to increase densities and height, that a masterplan is prepared.

Having regard to this policy context, any future planning application pertaining to the St Teresa's Gardens site would need to be accompanied by a masterplan prepared by the applicant which would set out how the development provides for an appropriate design approach to the site and an overall strategy that is consistent with the Development Plan guiding principles set out for SDRA 11.

The masterplan would accompany a planning application, giving members of the public and elected members an opportunity to comment on the masterplan as part of the statutory consultation phase as part of the planning application process, or to appeal the Planning decision.

Q.85 COUNCILLOR DEIRDRE CRONIN

To ask the Chief Executive to indicate (a) if specific Department of Housing/ central government funding is available for window replacement programmes in DCC flat complexes. And (b) if the replacement of windows in Oliver Bond House is considered a priority given the documented problems with mould & damp and in light of the focus on retrofitting in terms of climate action targets.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

There is not a specific government fund available for window replacement.

After our conditional surveys we are working through changing any single glazed windows into double glazed, bigger projects lined up for 2023 are in Blessington Street Apartments and O'Brien Hall as well as numerous smaller single units. If additional funding becomes available I can add more projects to the list.

Q.86 COUNCILLOR KEITH CONNOLLY

To ask the Chief Executive to provide an update including a proposed timeline on the roundabout scheme at **(details supplied)**.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

The **(details supplied 1)** roundabouts are due to be upgraded as part of the **(details supplied 2)** Roundabouts Scheme (DCC/19/0006), which is scheduled for delivery in Phase 1 of the Active Travel Network Programme.

The Preliminary Design has been completed for the **(details supplied 3)** Road roundabout with Detailed Design commencing. The outputs of the design work will determine the cost and programme for the construction phase, which is subject to funding approval.

Tender documents are being prepared for the **(details supplied 4)** roundabout. Subject to approval from the funding body, it is envisaged the scheme will be tendered for construction in Q1/Q2 2023.

Q.87 COUNCILLOR KEITH CONNOLLY

To ask the Chief Executive to provide an update on proposed traffic calming measures at **(details supplied)**.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

Following a speed survey, **(details supplied)** has been added to the list of roads currently being considered for traffic calming measures in the North-West Area in the New Year. The recommendation of these measures is based on the budget assigned to the area engineer in 2023.

Q.88 COUNCILLOR KEITH CONNOLLY

To ask the Chief Executive to provide an update on the new front door for **(details supplied)**.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

The Joinery Workshop fitted this new door for the tenant on 4th January 2023.

Q.89 COUNCILLOR KEITH CONNOLLY

To ask the Chief Executive his progress to date in seeking an increase from the Department of Housing, Heritage and Local Government in the housing aid older persons grant.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

In September 2021, The Government launched a new Housing Plan called "Housing for All – a New Housing Plan for Ireland".

As part of this Housing Plan, the Department of Housing, Heritage and Local Government have committed to review the range of housing grants available for the adaptation of existing housing to meet the specific needs of older and disabled people.

The issues being considered as part of this review include:

- ***Increasing Grant limits;***
- ***Increasing Income thresholds;***
- ***Review of the Application process – including timelines and documentation required.***

The Department of Housing Heritage and Local Government have advised that this review is now complete and is currently being prepared for submission to the Minister for Housing, Heritage and Local Government.

On the basis that the new increases in grant limits and thresholds will be approved by The Minister for Housing, Heritage and Local Government, a new Statutory Instrument will be drafted to give legislative effect to the recommendations.

It is expected that Local Authorities will be in a position to commence the new changes from May/June 2023.

Q.90 COUNCILLOR ANTHONY CONNAGHAN

To ask the Chief Executive for a brief report on the Animal Welfare/Control in Dublin City Council and can he provide details on the number of dog wardens in Dublin City Council.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

The role and responsibilities of local authorities in relation to Animal Welfare are as set out in the following primary statutes together with bye-laws made under this legislation.

- [Control of Dogs Act 1986 \(as amended 1992\)](#) – places responsibility on local authorities for all operational matters in relation to control of dogs and making of bye-laws i.e. licensing, appointment of dog wardens, provision of dog shelters, seizure and detention, nuisance, offences and penalties and court proceedings. [Dog Breeding Establishments Act 2010](#) regulating the operation of dog breeding establishments is also relevant.
- [Control of Horses Act 1996](#) - provides for the control and protection of welfare of horses, licensing of horses in urban areas where they pose danger or nuisance to persons or property, making of bye laws, seizure and detention, disposal / destruction and court proceedings.
- [Animal Health and Welfare Act 2013](#) contains general provisions for the health and welfare of animals and their protection and identification; the regulation of certain activities relating to animals and prevention of cruelty to animals [Section 37 \(2\)](#) and [Section 47](#) places a responsibility on local authorities for appointment of authorised officers for the purposes of the general enforcement of the Act.

Animal welfare functions have been carried out by Dublin City Council for several years mainly under contract management arrangements with external providers. Following a series of unsatisfactory contract performances and serious animal welfare concerns arising, particularly in relation to the operation of the dog shelter contract, a corporate decision was taken in 2021 to review existing arrangements. This was undertaken with the view that Dublin City Council has a statutory obligation to take on a greater role in direct management, co-ordination and delivery of animal welfare functions in the Dublin City administrative area.

A new Animal Welfare Unit, with a temporary staffing structure, was set up under the remit of Housing & Community Services Department (having previously been under the remit of licensing section in Engineering Dept. and prior to that under Culture, Recreation & Economic Services Dept.) Following a 1 year trial period of operation work is underway since June 2022 to formally establish the Animal Welfare Unit to ensure that Dublin City Council can fully meet its statutory obligations under the above existing legislation.

The Animal Welfare function is currently being overseen by an established multi-agency Oversight Committee comprising Elected Members, other statutory agencies and representatives of animal welfare organisations.

The optimum staffing structure for the Animal Welfare Unit to include management, operations and administrative support and current status of these posts is as follows:

POST / GRADE	STATUS
Management	
1 No. Administrative Officer	Vacant
Operations	
1 Animal Welfare Inspector	Vacant - External Recruitment process currently underway.
1 Assistant Animal Welfare Inspector	Filled in Acting capacity pending completion of Internal Recruitment process – currently underway
3 No. Animal Welfare Officers / Dog Wardens	1 post filled, 2 posts vacant
Administration	
1 Staff Officer (Administration)	Post filled
1 Staff Officer (Education)	Vacant
1 Clerical Officer	Post filled

There are a number of vacancies in the Animal Welfare Unit, however, arrangements are in train to fill posts and build the capacity of the unit to meet statutory animal welfare obligations into the future.

Q.91 COUNCILLOR ANTHONY CONNAGHAN

To ask the Chief Executive to complete the garden extension programme which was started many years ago in **(details supplied 1)** but stopped short of completion. Most areas were finished but the **(details supplied 2)** part of this estate was not completed.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

In 2012 Dublin City Council extended the front gardens of 183 houses in the **(details supplied)** area at an average cost of €25,000 per house.

A further 166 houses were identified for similar extensions, subject to funding. At that time (2012) the average cost of €25,000 per house, would cost an additional €4.1 million. Construction costs have increased considerably since then. While this was a costly project it has made a huge improvement to the area where works were completed. The Area Office would strongly argue that while it enhanced the area, house owners should make a contribution towards the cost of the work. As it extends their properties and adds value to them.

In the current economic climate - and the prioritising of providing additional housing units - I do not see any source of public funding for this project. The request will again be referred to the Housing Department for their consideration. However, in the absence of a significant level of upfront contributions by individual property owners I do not expect a positive response.

Q.92 COUNCILLOR ANTHONY CONNAGHAN

To ask the Chief Executive if he will arrange for the tree adjacent to **(details supplied)** to be trimmed back as it is encroaching on the property.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

Parks services have inspected this tree and have it listed for removal during our 2023 Tree care programme, subject to available budget. This tree was planted too close to gable wall of this house to allow it to reach maturity.

Q.93 COUNCILLOR ANTHONY CONNAGHAN

To ask the Chief Executive to arrange for the road surface to be repaired at **(details supplied)** where the concrete has been damaged and is dangerous.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPLY:

Road Maintenance Services has carried out an inspection of this location. A job has been created (job number 41163447) and is scheduled for repair when a works crew is available in the area. There is currently a backlog of outstanding repairs and as such, no date for when this repair will be completed can be given at present.