

**South Dublin
Economic and Community
Plan 2024-2030
October 2024**

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1

Introduction

1.1 South Dublin Local Economic and Community Plan 2024-2030

This document represents South Dublin's new Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) for the period 2024-2030. This new LECP fulfils the requirements as set-out in the Local Government Reform Act 2014 and has been developed in accordance with the guidance set out in the Local Economic and Community Plan Guidelines (2021).

The South Dublin Local Economic and Community Plan (2024-2030) is an integrated plan that will guide the County's economic and community development over the next 6 years. In doing so, it will look to assist in creating a County that is prosperous, sustainable and inclusive with an excellent quality of life.

The LECP has been prepared by South Dublin County Council in conjunction with the South Dublin Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) for Economic Development, Enterprise and Tourism, and the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC). It has been informed by extensive consultation with communities across South Dublin, the private sector, education and training providers, government agencies, departments and other key stakeholders. Achievements and lessons learned from South Dublin's previous LECP (2016-2021) have also been taken into consideration during the development of this plan.

The LECP includes high-level goals, objectives, and outcomes for the 6-year period (together these elements are known as the LECP Framework). In contrast to the previous iteration of LECPs, the actions are now part of a detailed two-year Implementation Plan that identifies action owners and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) to assist with monitoring and evaluation. A revised and updated Implementation Plan will be developed for each subsequent two-year period up to 2030, to reflect progress made and take account of newly emerging policies and programmes.

The plan fully aligns with and supports existing strategies at the local, regional and national level. At a local level this includes the LEO Development Plan (2021 - 2024), Age-Friendly Strategy 2020 – 2024 and South Dublin County Council Draft Climate Action Plan (2024 – 2029). The plan is also fully aligned with the County Development Plan, the Eastern and Midlands Regional Assembly's Regional Spatial & Economic Strategy 2019-2031 (EMRA RSES) and national plans such as the National Planning Framework (NPF) (2018), and both the National Climate Action Plan 2023 and emerging National Climate Action Plan 2024. Furthermore, given the current climate crisis, a core cross-cutting policy of the LECP will be the UN Sustainable Development Goals which underpin the new plan to ensure that sustainability and climate action are at the centre of South Dublin's development moving forward.

The high-level goals, objectives, outcomes and actions were proofed, in consultation with key stakeholders, to ensure they reflected and addressed cross-cutting priorities of sustainability, equality, poverty, rurality, age and disability, as outlined in the LECP guidelines.

Considerable effort has been made to ensure that the LECP and the initial Implementation Plan and associated KPIs are compliant with the Public Sector Duty. Additional implementation plans and the reporting of the LECP's implementation will also need to be compliant with the Public Sector Duty. Equality and human rights issues within South Dublin have been assessed and used to establish relevant issues.

1.2 Purpose of this document

This document (the South Dublin LECP) comprises of the following chapters:

- An ambition for South Dublin developed from the views and feedback provided during the Consultation process reflecting a vision for the future as put forward by South Dublin's community and business interests, and various public sector organisations that operate within the County. (Chapter 2)
- A summary of key strategies and plans that the LECP supports, embodies and aligns with at a local, regional and national level. (Chapter 3)
- A summary of key findings from the socio-economic analysis of the County, in areas including demographics, the economy, housing, community and the environment. (Chapter 4)
- An overview of the Consultation process with information on the consultation conducted and key findings identified from the analysis by theme. (Chapter 5)
- An analysis of the County's key strengths, constraints, opportunities and threats (SCOT Analysis) as South Dublin moves towards 2029. (Chapter 6)

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- High-level goals, objectives and outcomes for the 6-year period between 2024-2030 that were developed from findings of the analysis and consultation (Chapter 7)
- An initial 2-year implementation plan outlining specific actions (along with action owners and KPIs) to assist in achieving the high-level goals, objectives and Outcomes (Chapter 8)
- An overview of the approach to monitoring and evaluation of the new plan. (Chapter 9)

1.3 LECP Format

The South Dublin LECP has been developed in accordance with the guidance set out in the Local Economic and Community Plan Guidelines (2021) (fig. 1.1). The LECP comprises of two distinct elements. These are:

- The **LECP Framework** covering the 2024-2030 period which consists of the high-level goals, the objectives and the outcomes. The high-level goals establish the strategic direction of the South Dublin LECP in relation to both economic and community elements, the objectives identify more specific areas to address, and the desired outcomes represent key targets for the 6-year period.
- **The Implementation Plan**, which is for an initial 2-years, includes the actions and KPIs that will help to achieve the goals, objectives and outcomes for South Dublin. The Implementation Plan will be reviewed and revised every 2 years.

The change to the format of the LECP process is a positive development that provides additional flexibility so that the plan can adapt to address new issues and needs as they arise over the 6-year period. It also allows South Dublin County Council to identify actions that may not be progressing or achieving the envisaged impact and replace them with new actions that better suit the County's needs in the subsequent implementation plans. Key to realising the benefits of this enhanced flexibility and the overall success of the plan will be clear, concise and regular monitoring and evaluation of progress on the LECP's actions.

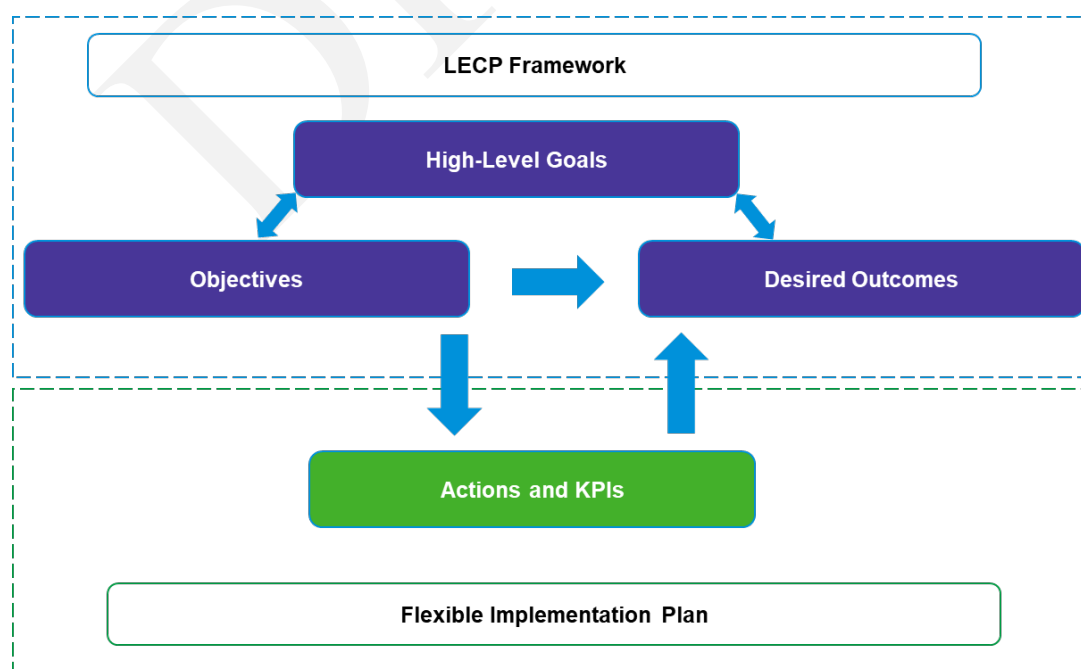


Figure 1.1: LECP Framework and Implementation Plan

South Dublin Local Economic and Community Plan 2024-2030

1.4 Preparation of the plan

The plan has been developed through the following stages:

1. **Preparation** – The first stage in developing South Dublin’s new LECP was the collation and analysis of socio-economic data from relevant sources (e.g. CSO data) and a review of existing policies and strategies in relation to the context and alignment of the plan. This information was then used in the development of the Socio-Economic Statement which included five draft high-level goals. The Socio-Economic Statement was then put forward for public consultation to generate discussion and ideas for the new LECP.
2. **Consultation** – During this stage an extensive range of public and stakeholder consultation was conducted. This included online surveys (community and business sector), workshops and a number of key stakeholder interviews. Views, ideas and suggestions were received from the public, community representative groups, local government, state agencies, education providers and the private sector. Following the conclusion of the initial round of intense consultation, the draft high-level goals were revised to reflect the views provided by the community, private sector and other key stakeholders.
3. **Development of the Objectives, Outcomes and Actions** – During the third stage, the objectives and outcomes for the 6-year period were developed along with the actions for the initial 2-year implementation plan. These elements were developed from the findings of the analysis of data and the consultation process in stage 2. They were also informed by a second short period of consultation with key stakeholders. Proposed action owners/enabling agencies were further consulted with on the objectives, outcomes and actions to ensure buy-in and alignment of views and ambition. The goals, objectives, outcomes and actions were checked to ensure that they covered the crosscutting priorities of sustainability, equality, poverty, rurality, age, and disability outlined in the LECP guidelines, as well as for alignment with local, regional and national policy.
4. **Finalise Plan** – Following approval of the Objectives, Outcomes and Actions, input from the Regional Assembly and Municipal Districts was sought and incorporated into a Draft LECP. A Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening report and Appropriate Assessment Screening report were also conducted following completion of the draft plan. The plan was then revised and finalised following the receipt of feedback. Subsequently, South Dublin’s new LECP was formally approved by South Dublin County Council on **DATE DD/MM/YY**

1.5 Responsibilities in developing the LECP

While extensive consultation with the community and private sector was carried out in the development of the new LECP, in line with and even beyond the LECP Guidelines, the following responsibilities were assigned for the development of the plan:

- South Dublin County Council LECP Advisory Steering Group (ASG): The ASG provided oversight for the overall development of the LECP
- Local Community Development Committee (LCDC): The LCDC was responsible for the preparation of the community elements of the LECP
- Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) for Economic Development, Enterprise and Tourism: The SPC was responsible for the preparation of the economic elements of the LECP
- Regional Assembly: The Eastern and Midlands Regional Assembly was consulted for inputs to ensure consistency and alignment with the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy 2019-2031 (RSES).

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1.6 An Integrated and Collaborative Approach

This LECP covers both community and economic development as required by the LECP guidelines. However, in contrast to the previous iteration, the community and economic elements are not separated into different sections. Instead, the goals, objectives and actions have been developed using an integrated approach reflecting the cross-cutting and interlinked nature of economic development and community wellbeing.

The **community elements** of the plan have been developed and approved by the South Dublin LCDC. It includes goals, objectives and actions related to enhancing inclusion, public transport, wellbeing and health, education and training, social disadvantage, crime, the culture and creative sector and sustainability. The **economic elements** have been developed and approved by the South Dublin SPC for Economic Development, Enterprise and Tourism. It includes goals, objectives and actions related to improving the business environment, urban and rural regeneration, attracting investment, social disadvantage, training and skills, supporting existing businesses and sustainable tourism development.

As outlined in the subsequent chapters, the new LECP has been developed to be a shared plan that will require collaboration between key stakeholders from across different sectors for it to be a success. This will include South Dublin County Council, the public, the private sector, community and voluntary groups, education and training providers, and other key stakeholders that provide vital services in the County. It is through this collaborative effort that this plan will succeed in addressing the needs of all the community and businesses, and enhance the County as a place to live, work and invest.

1.7 Overriding Status of the Plan

Implementing this plan will involve South Dublin County Council helping to facilitate, promote, support and coordinate stakeholders in their activities in a way that is consistent with existing and emerging plans setting out public policy for sustainable development, including that relating to the economy, communities, infrastructure, land use tourism and environmental protection and environmental management.

This plan is situated alongside this hierarchy of statutory documents that has been subject to environmental assessment/screening for environmental assessment, as appropriate, and forms the decision-making and consent-granting framework. The plan does not provide consent or establish a framework for granting consent and will not be binding on any decisions relating to the granting of consent.

As previously noted, the plan fully aligns with the provisions of the existing National Planning Framework, Ireland 2040, National Climate Action Plan 2023, emerging National Climate Action Plan 2024, Housing For All 2021, the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy 2020-2032 and the current County Development Plan, all of which have been subject to legislative requirements relating to public consultation and environmental assessment/screening for environmental assessment. As such, the plan is wholly subject to the requirements of the provisions set out in these documents, including provisions relating to sustainable development, environmental protection and environmental management that have been integrated into these documents, including through SEA and AA processes, and does not introduce any alterations or additions to those provisions.

In order to be realised, projects included in this plan (in a similar way to other projects from any other sectors) will have to comply, as relevant, with various legislation, policies, plans and programmes (including requirements for lower-tier Appropriate Assessment, Environmental Impact Assessment and other licencing requirements as appropriate) that form the statutory decision-making and consent-granting framework. It is a specific provision of this plan to ensure that all of the provisions from the County Development Plan identified as mitigation in the accompanying Screening for SEA and AA reports shall be complied with throughout the implementation of this plan.

2

Ambition for South Dublin



2.1 Ambition for South Dublin

The wide-ranging function of the LECP means that it has the potential to positively impact all those who work, live and visit the County. As such, the development of the LECP has provided an opportunity to frame an ambition for the County and its development over the next number of years. The ambition, outlined below, is based around the understanding obtained from the research conducted in the development of the LECP and importantly, through views provided during the consultation process with key stakeholders, the community and the private sector. It builds on solid foundations and reflects reality.

Taking the findings from the analysis and consultation into account, the following ambition has been developed:

In order to improve the quality of life, economic prospects and environmental impact of its residents (especially those in identified groups), South Dublin will become Ireland's most innovative and agile Local Authority area.

The ambition provides a unified path forward reflecting how many of the goals, objectives and actions are interconnected and, in some cases, interdependent, contributing both to the wellbeing of the economy and the community.

3

Policy Framework Overview



3.1 Policy Overview – Context and Understanding

This section provides a brief overview of some of the key policies at international, national, regional and local level that are influencing the development of South Dublin and to which the new LECP will be aligned. Given the importance of the UN Sustainable Development Goals to the new plan, the SDGs are expanded on in slightly more detail below. These policies will help to inform and chart the direction of this LECP and its key elements of goals, objectives, desired outcomes and actions (fig. 3.1).

From the review of relevant policies and strategies some of the key areas that South Dublin can draw upon and align with include:

Community

- Providing quality of life through compact and sustainable growth of settlements, associated services and amenities. Ensuring that communities are created and not just large housing estates.
- Strengthening local communities to help reverse and address social disadvantage.
- Providing an environment that leads to the improved physical and mental health of residents.

Economic

- Generating economic growth and diversification, including through supporting SME and micro business creation.
- Advancing development of infrastructure to support emerging employment sectors.
- Encouraging population growth in settlements of all sizes, supported by job creation and enhanced employment opportunities.

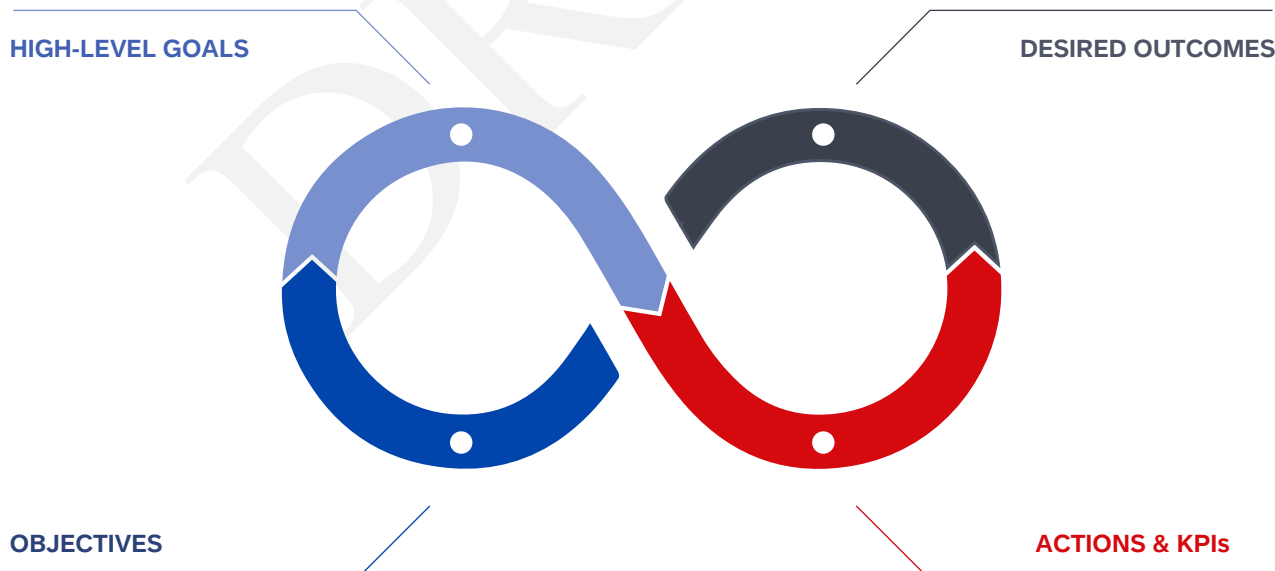


Figure 3.1: Key elements of the LECP

3.2 International Policy

2030 Agenda – UN 17 Sustainable Development Goals

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015, provides a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future. At its heart are the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which are an urgent call for action by all countries - developed and developing - in a global partnership. They recognise that ending poverty and other disadvantages must go together with strategies that improve health and education, reduce inequality, and spur economic growth – all while tackling climate change and working to preserve the natural environment and biodiversity. The SDGs are: 1 No Poverty; 2 Zero Hunger; 3 Good Health and Well-Being; 4 Quality Education; 5 Gender Equality; 6 Clean Water and Sanitation; 7 Affordable and Clean Energy; 8 Decent Work and Economic Growth; 9 Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure; 10 Reduced Inequalities; 11 Sustainable Cities and Communities; 12 Responsible Consumption and Production; 13 Climate Action; 14 Life Below Water; 15 Life on Land; 16 Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions; and 17 Partnership for the Goals.

Of the 17 SDGs outlined in the 2030 Agenda, several share a strong alignment with the purpose and objectives of the South Dublin Local Economic and Community Plan...

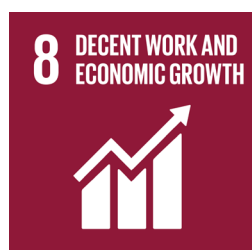


SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities

As shown by the Pobal Deprivation Index, South Dublin has large areas of wealth and large areas of social disadvantage. Much of the disadvantage in South Dublin is intergenerational. A key focus of this LECP is on breaking that cycle of intergenerational social disadvantage and providing an easier route to social and economic progression.

SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities

Creating cities, towns, villages and communities which are safe, inclusive, resilient and sustainable are key objectives of the Sustainable Development Goals. These objectives are closely aligned with those found throughout Irish spatial planning policy. Ensuring access to high-quality services, creating positive economic, social and environmental links are key to achieving this SDG and are echoed throughout South Dublin's new LECP.



SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth

In line with SDG 11, promoting sustained, inclusive economic growth and fulfilling employment for all is strongly aligned with the objectives of this LECP. Creating a diverse economy, achieving full and productive employment and decent work is a central foundation of both previous and current planning policy for South Dublin.

SDG 13: Climate Action

The urgency and scale of climate action is ever-increasing. The Covid-19 pandemic and subsequent public health restrictions has revitalised our sense of value in the natural environment and has provided a prime opportunity for us to take urgent action to combat climate change – through our actions, our governments, our institutions and our policies.



3.3 National Policy

Project Ireland 2040

National Planning Framework

The National Planning Framework (NPF) aims to shape growth and development in Ireland over the 17 years to the year 2040. The NPF draws upon lessons learned from the National Spatial Strategy 2002-2020 and provides a framework for the sustainable development of Ireland's existing settlements, as an alternative to an uncoordinated "business as usual" approach to development. As a framework document it lays out the process by which more detailed planning documents must follow, including the relevant RSES and County Development Plans. The Strategy also contains a range of National Policy Objectives (NPOs) providing a wider context for targeting future growth across the country.



**Rialtas
na hÉireann
Government
of Ireland**

National Development Plan 2021 - 2030

The National Development Plan (NDP) 2021-2030 sets out the investment priorities that underpin the implementation of the National Planning Framework as part of Project Ireland 2040. Through a total investment of €165 billion, this level of capital spending aims to ensure ongoing cross-sectoral regional development and public investment. A large proportion of this investment is directed at major national infrastructure projects relating to sustainable mobility, international and regional connectivity, transitions to a low carbon and climate-resilient economy, compact growth, enhanced amenity and heritage among others.

**Tionscadal Éireann
Project Ireland
2040**

3.4 Regional Policy

Eastern & Midland Regional Assembly
**Regional Spatial
& Economic Strategy**
2019-2031



Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the EMRA

The (2019-2031) RSES for the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly provides an overarching framework to achieve development while creating a sustainable and competitive region. The RSES primarily aims to support the delivery of the programme for change set out in Project Ireland 2040 - the National Planning Framework (NPF) and the National Development Plan 2021-2030 (NDP). In doing so it seeks ensure that access to quality housing, travel, and employment opportunities is provided to all. As the regional tier of the national planning process, it will ensure coordination between the City and County Development Plans (CCDP) and Local Enterprise and Community Plans (LECP) of the nine local authorities in the Region in achieving the objectives of Project Ireland 2040.

The RSES will be realised by the delivery of European and National funding that will achieve the strategic outcomes expressed in the Strategy. To embed a coherent policy hierarchy and to ensure that future investment is targeted towards identified policy objectives the 16 Regional Strategic Outcomes (RSOs) are aligned to the (table 3.1);

- UN Sustainable Development Goals,
- EU thematic objectives⁴, and
- NPF National Strategic Outcomes (NSOs)

The 16 RSOs are also cross referenced and aligned with the 3 key principles of healthy placemaking, climate action and economic opportunity.

3.4 Regional Policy (contd.)

Regional Strategic Outcomes	Key principle alignment
1. Sustainable settlement patterns	Healthy placemaking
2. Compact growth and urban regeneration	Healthy placemaking
3. Rural communities	Healthy placemaking
4. Healthy communities	Healthy placemaking
5. Creative places	Healthy placemaking
6. Integrated transport and land use	Climate action
7. Sustainable management of water, waste and other environmental resources	Climate action
8. Build climate resilience	Climate action
9. Support the transition to low carbon and clean energy	Climate action
10. Enhanced green infrastructure	Climate action
11. Biodiversity and natural heritage	Climate action
12. A strong economy supported by enterprise and innovation	Economic opportunity
13. Improve education skills and social inclusion	Economic opportunity
14. Global city region	Economic opportunity
15. Enhanced strategic connectivity	Economic opportunity
16. Collaboration platform	Economic opportunity

Table 3.1 EMRA RSES Regional Strategic Outcomes



Dublin Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan

The Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan (MASP) is an integrated land use and transportation strategy for the Dublin Metropolitan Area. It sets out a Vision for the future growth of the metropolitan area and key enablers to achieve compact growth along key public transport corridors and nodes. One of these corridors goes through South Dublin. The South West Corridor incorporates the Kildare train line, DART expansion and Luas red line. The MASP also includes a number of strategic development areas to be delivered in tandem with the infrastructure projects. Finally, the MASP contains a sequence of infrastructure priorities.



Dublin Regional Enterprise Plan to 2024

The Regional Enterprise Plan to 2024 for Dublin prioritizes resilience, innovation, and sustainable growth. Key concentration areas include enhancing SMEs and start-ups, promoting adaptive economic planning, fostering inclusion and skill development, leading in the low carbon transition, and strengthening the regional ecosystem. With the involvement of stakeholders, the plan aims to future-proof the Dublin Region by focusing on innovative solutions and addressing climate action, economic opportunities, and digitalization. In order to meet the strategic objectives elaborated in the policy, the plan enlists a number of targeted actions. The action items align with the diverse enterprise base and dynamic environment of the region, ensuring a more resilient economic future.

3.5 Local Policy

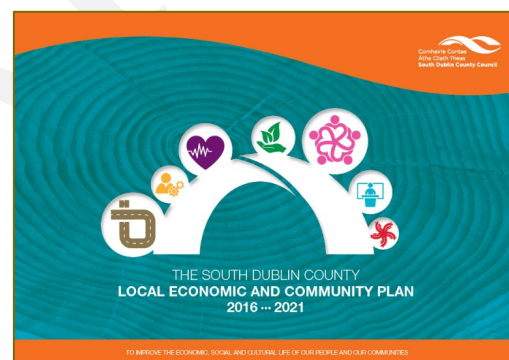
South Dublin County Development Plan 2022 – 2028

The South Dublin County Development Plan 2022-2028 is a strategic document outlining the long-term vision and framework for sustainable development in the region, considering demographic, economic, and environmental factors. The Plan outlines a land use framework guiding future development, emphasizing living, working, and connectivity while safeguarding the environment. It envisions sustainable growth in communities, housing, jobs, and transport, promoting climate action and efficient land use. The strategy prioritizes areas for accommodating up to 45,000 people by 2028 and aligns with national and regional targets for an additional 80,000 people and 32,000 homes by 2040. The document emphasizes on compact settlement form, heritage preservation, Green Infrastructure, high-quality urban design, and inclusive communities. It sets out development standards and a monitoring framework aligning policies with the strategic vision.



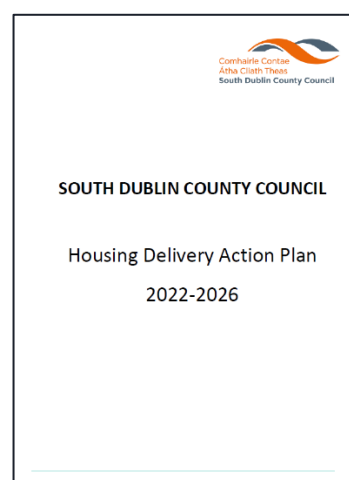
South Dublin LECP 2016 – 2021

The South Dublin Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) 2016-2021 integrates economic and community development with 7 goals, each emphasizing collaboration. Building on prior initiatives, it complements existing plans and introduces new programs, focusing on action, monitoring, and evaluation. Aligned with the South Dublin County Development Plan, the LECP sets goals for enterprise development, transforming industrial areas, strengthening towns, and supporting new and existing enterprises. It addresses health and wellbeing, poverty reduction, education and training, and citizenship, fostering community empowerment and participation. The plan reflects a strategic vision for the county's economic and community development, promoting collaboration and inclusivity.



South Dublin County Council Housing Delivery Action Plan 2022 – 2026

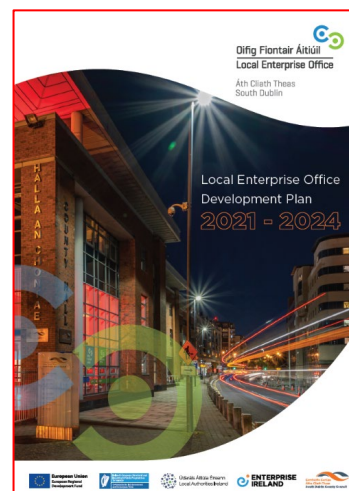
The South Dublin Housing Delivery Action Plan (2022-2026) aligns with the national Housing for All initiative, mandating local authorities to detail social and affordable housing strategies. This plan articulates the "how, where, and when" of housing projects to meet the Council's target and contribute to national goals. Building on past success, it amplifies ambition for the next five years, involving collaboration with Housing Bodies, the private sector, and potentially the Land Development Agency. The plan encompasses a mix of larger and smaller projects, including infill, age-friendly, Traveller accommodation, and other bespoke developments. The proposed housing delivery faces various challenges that have been well articulated in the Plan. The policy is strategically designed to provide 3,699 homes as per the planned social housing delivery, surpassing 77% of the estimated current net housing need which would contribute to eliminating homelessness.



3.5 Local Policy

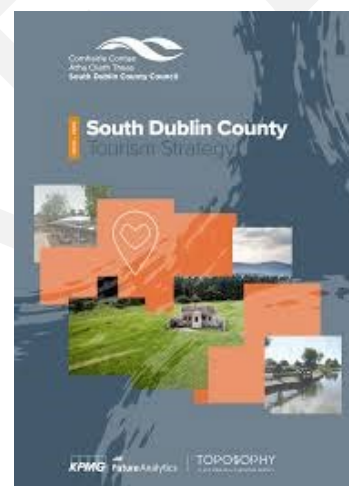
Local Enterprise Office Development Plan 2021 – 2024

South Dublin's Local Enterprise Office (LEO) Development Plan 2021 – 2024 aims to drive local entrepreneurship, supporting startups and existing businesses especially micro and small businesses for job creation. Noteworthy achievements from 2017-2021 include increased funding approvals, expanded training, and COVID-19 support. In the context of the county's Strategic Priorities, LEO highlight their future goals in the plan. These include promoting the region for tech startups, expanding sustainability programs like the Green for Micro Programme, and enhancing business networks. The plan also emphasizes collaboration with organizations, tech education initiatives, and participation in regional innovation programs.



South Dublin County Tourism Strategy Plan 2024 – 2029

The overall objective of the South Dublin Tourism Strategy is identify actionable recommendations to guide and stimulate tourism development and investment which can maximise national and international stays/visits to South Dublin County and promote the local economy. The strategy is guided by one vision, four goals, and six priorities. Strategic priorities are designed to deliver on the vision and ensure South Dublin County can build on success and realise its potential as a thriving visitor destination within the Dublin Region. Six catalytic projects are identified with each capable of contributing to the transformation of tourism in South Dublin County.



South Dublin County Council Draft Climate Action Plan 2024 – 2029

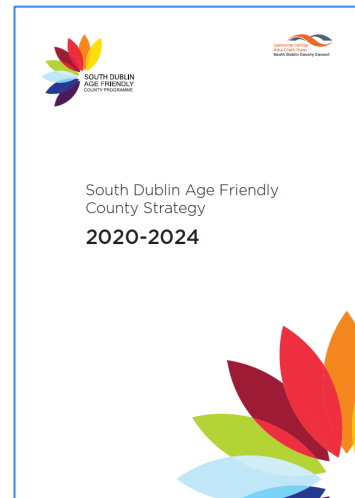
The South Dublin County Council Draft Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 outlines a comprehensive strategy to address climate change challenges over the next five years. Aligned with national and international efforts, the plan sets ambitious targets for the Council, including a 50% improvement in energy efficiency and a 51% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030. It emphasizes a collaborative, evidence-based approach, considering the Council's emissions profile and climate change risk assessment. The plan identifies key action areas such as Energy and Buildings, Transport, Flood Resilience, Nature-Based Solutions, Circular Economy and Resource Management, and Community Engagement. Notable actions include public lighting retrofit, decarbonization of buildings and fleet, and initiatives like the Cycle South Dublin Programme. The plan introduces South Dublin's first Decarbonizing Zone in Clondalkin and underscores the importance of community engagement. The Climate Action Team will monitor progress, collaborating with relevant stakeholders to prioritize and embed climate action in South Dublin.



3.5 Local Policy

South Dublin Age Friendly Strategy 2020 – 2024

The South Dublin County Council's Age-Friendly Strategy (2020-2024) attempts to address the challenges posed by the increasingly aging population. With a focus on enhancing the quality of life for older residents, the strategy builds on previous achievements, such as establishing an Age-Friendly Alliance and supporting various initiatives. Key areas of focus include health and well-being, social participation, safety, and inclusivity. The strategy aims to address issues highlighted during the pandemic, such as social isolation and access to online services. The approach involves active engagement with older citizens, encouraging participation in various activities, and promoting intergenerational learning. Thematic actions in transportation, housing, social participation, and more underscore the commitment to creating an age-friendly community in South Dublin.



4

Socio-Economic Profile



4.0 Snapshot Socio-Economic Analysis

Detailed socio-economic analysis has been carried out to inform the development of the LECP. This included analysis across key themes such as population (demography), housing, the economy & employment, social & community, and the environment (figure 4.0). This analysis, along with the consultation, has allowed for the identification of specific Strengths, Challenges, Opportunities and Threats (SCOT) which have influenced the development of the goals, objectives, outcomes and actions (Chapter 5).

The findings from the socio-economic analysis are outlined below. The analysis has primarily utilised 2022 and 2016 Census data. Additional data from the SEAI, Pobal and GeoDirectory has been incorporated where available and relevant.



Figure 4.0: Key elements of the socio-economic analysis

Some of the specific needs for South Dublin identified from the analysis that could be addressed through the LECP include:

- Catering to the demand for affordable and diverse housing options especially in the context of population growth. Recent trends in the county emphasises the need for innovative housing solutions that cater to the various demographics.
- Addressing traffic congestion and exploring sustainable transportation alternatives is crucial, particularly with a significant reliance on private cars. Developing efficient public transport options in required areas can alleviate congestion and enhance accessibility.
- Focusing on economic diversification and creating employment opportunities beyond dominant sectors like Commerce and Trade is essential. Balancing opportunities across different industries can contribute to a more resilient and diverse local economy.
- Ensuring access to education and skill development programs. Emphasizing initiatives that cater to late teens transitioning to secondary education and addressing any disparities in educational attainment is crucial.
- Promoting community health, both physical and mental. This includes supporting voluntary activities, ensuring access to healthcare services, and addressing social class disparities to enhance social inclusion and overall well-being.

4.1 Demographics

As per Census 2022, South Dublin is home to 301,075 residents and is the 4th largest in terms of population size after Dublin City, Cork, and Fingal.

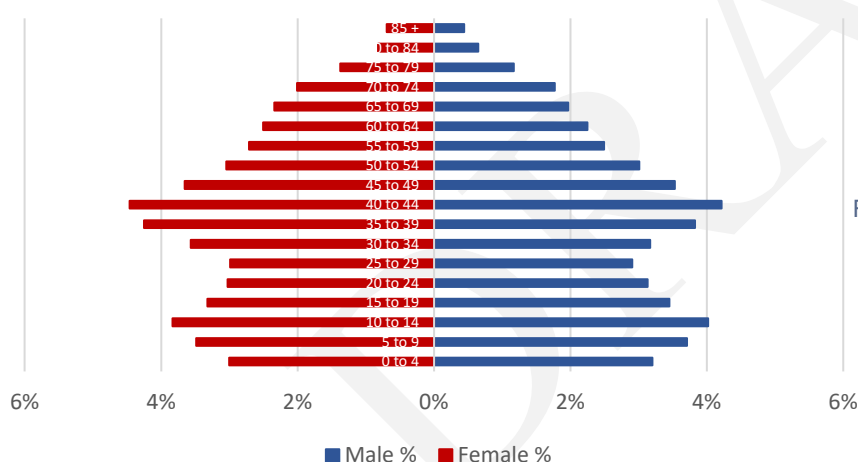
Pop. Density – South Dublin is a heavily densely populated area with a population density of 1,350 individuals per sq.km (Census 2022).

Age Profile – South Dublin has a relatively younger population (average age 36.6 years in 2022) compared to the state average (38.8 years) with the largest age groups in the 35-44 age bracket (figure 4.1). In 2022, over half (53.9%) of the population was under 40 years old, higher than the national average. South Dublin has a smaller percentage of individuals aged 80 and over (2.7%) compared to the national average (3.5%).

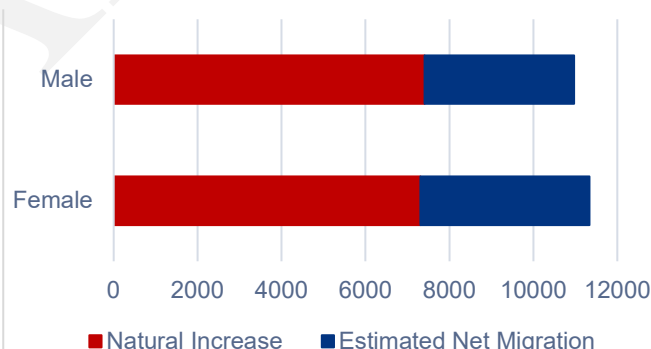
Aging Population - Since 2016, the average age in South Dublin has increased by 1.6 years, reflecting a wider trend of both declining birth rates and declining natural population increases. Between 2016 and 2022, age cohort groups between 0-9 years, 25-39 years experienced a decrease. The largest increase was among those who are older than 70.

Population Growth – Between 2016 and 2022, South Dublin's population increased by 8% (22,308 individuals). This is compared to population increases of 6.9% in Dublin City, 7.3% in Galway City, 11% in Kildare, and 14% in Longford. Of the county's total population growth, 66% (14,714 individuals) can be attributed to natural increase, which accounts for the surplus of live births over deaths. The remaining 34% (7,591 individuals) is the result of positive net migration.

South Dublin - Population by Gender and Age Group (2022)



South Dublin Population Increase, 2016-2022



Figures 4.1 & 4.2: Population overview

Ethnicity & Nationality Distribution- According to the 2022 Census, South Dublin's population is predominantly Irish (84% Irish nationals). When categorized by place of birth, the majority (79.1%) of South Dublin's population consists of those who were born in Ireland, followed by UK, Poland, and India (figure 4.3).

Share of Population in South Dublin, by birthplace

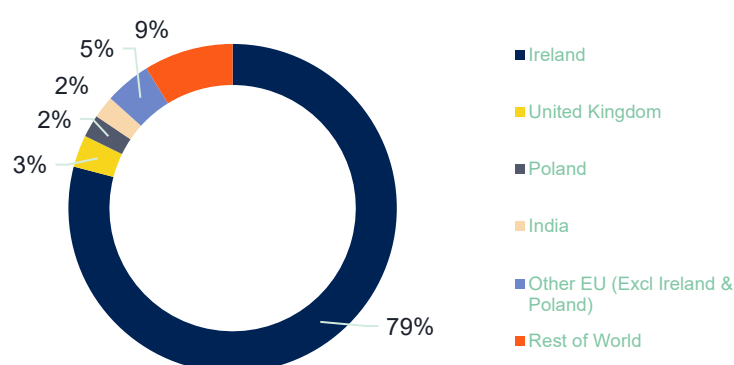


Figure 4.3: Usually resident population by birthplace

Household Structure- As per the 2022 Census, South Dublin had 100,364 private households, which increased by 7,841 households from 2016, surpassing the national growth rate of 8.1%. The average household size was 2.97 persons, slightly higher than the national average of 2.74 persons.

Areas of population growth – Most areas of South Dublin experienced an increase in population, especially in Lucan-St. Helens, Newcastle, Rathcoole, Saggart, Tallaght-Fettercairn, Bohernabreena, and Firhouse-Ballycullen (seen in figure 4.4).

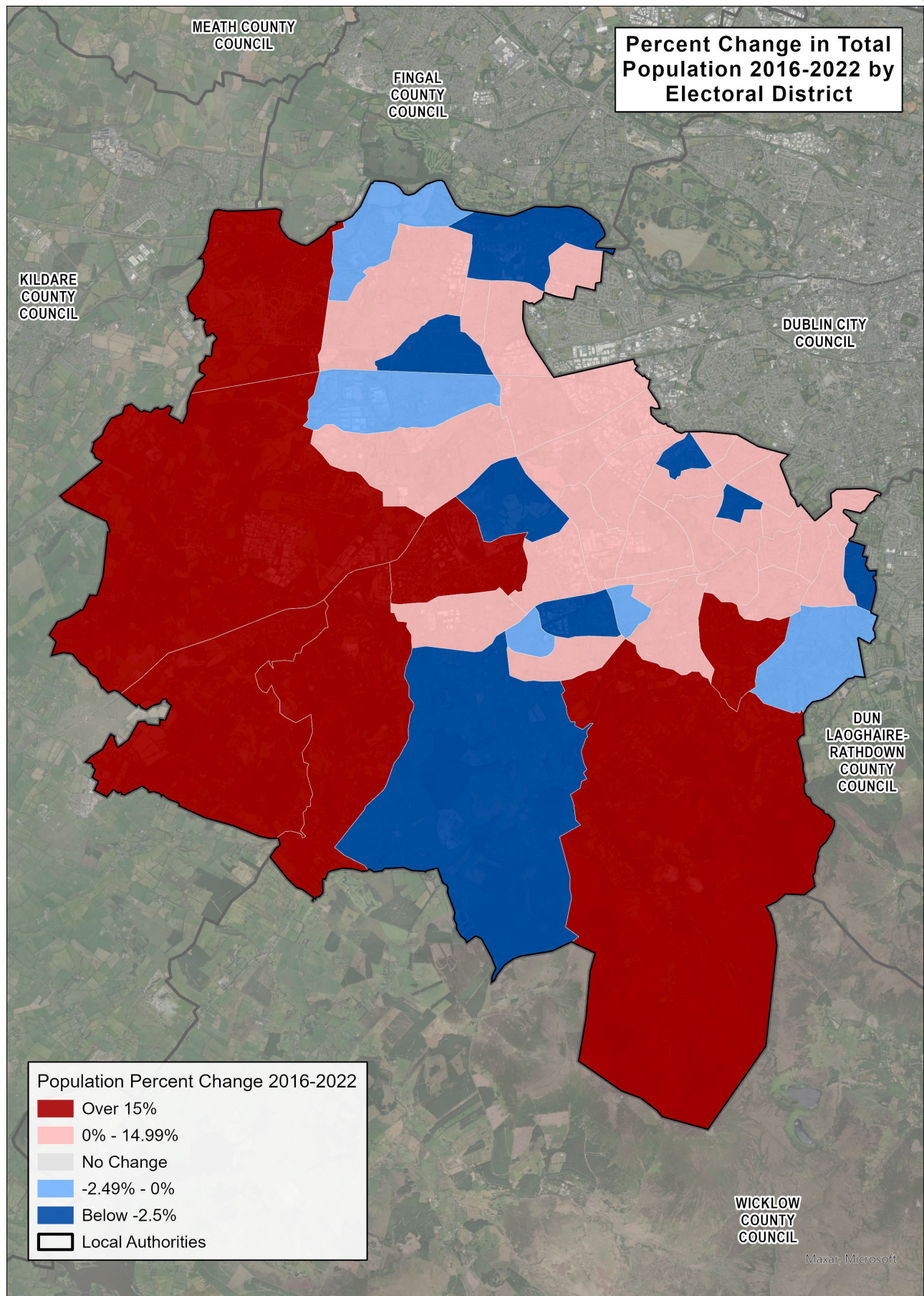


Figure 4.4: Change in Population

4.2 Housing

Population growth in both South Dublin and across the country has created significant challenges in terms of housing provision.

Housing Stock Growth- As per the recent Census 2022 results, between 2016 and 2022 South Dublin added 7,687 new housing units, bringing the total housing stock to 106,074. The areas where this growth happened are seen in figure 4.7.

Construction Trends – According to Census 2022 results, 34.7% of South Dublin's housing stock in 2022 was built between 1991 and 2010. This represents a lower figure than observed at State level (39.1%). Meanwhile, in 2022, 9.1% of South Dublin's housing stock was built between 2011 and 2022 which is higher than the State average (7.8%).

Housing Stock Growth Rate- As per Census 2022, South Dublin's housing stock growth rate (7.81%) exceeded the national housing stock growth rate of 5.41% between 2016 and 2022. South Dublin ranked 5th amongst local authorities in terms of housing construction during that period (after Meath, Kildare, Fingal, and Wicklow).

Housing Unit Types- According to the 2022 Census, 46.7% of households in South Dublin are identified as semi-detached, compared to 26.7% at the State level. Meanwhile detached houses in South Dublin only make up 8.4% of total households which is the second lowest rate in the country (figure 4.5).

Housing Tenures- As per Census 2022, owner-occupied housing with mortgage comprises 39.5% of total housing tenures in South Dublin, followed by owner-occupied housing with no mortgage at 32%. Rented housing from a private landlord stands at 15.7%, which is below the national average of 18%.

Rent - According to Census 2022, the average weekly rent in South Dublin is 230 Euros and is ranked 5th after Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown, Dublin City, Fingal, and Galway City. From 2016 to 2022, the average weekly rent in South Dublin increased by 31.9% compared to the national average increase of 29.4%.

Housing Vacancy Rate- As per the preliminary results of the 2022 Census, South Dublin County has a housing stock vacancy rate of 3.7%, which is the lowest in Ireland. There were 3,899 vacant units in South Dublin, accounting for 2.4% of national vacancies.

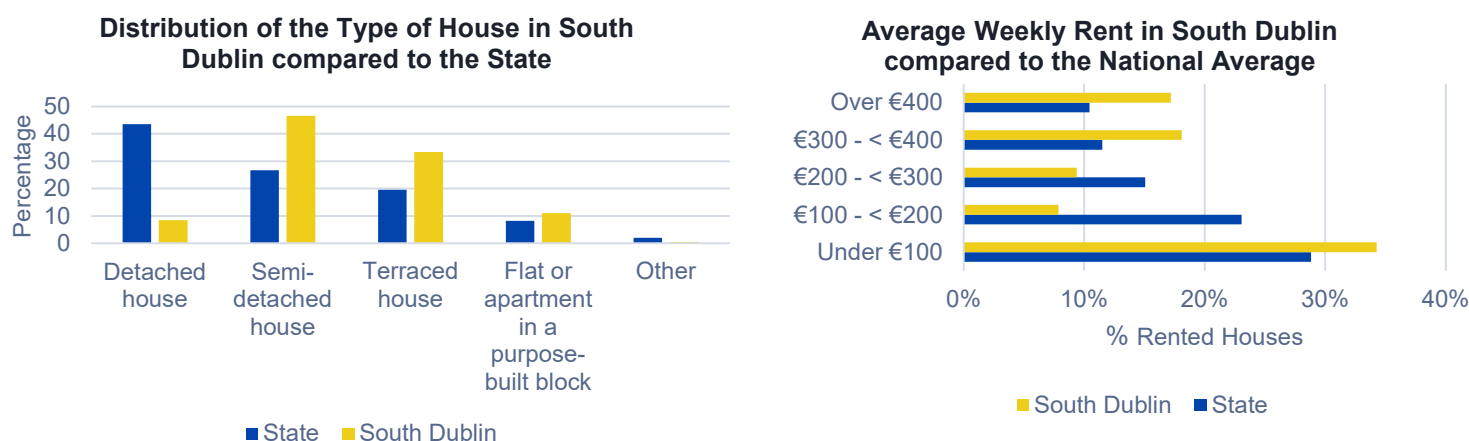


Figure 4.5 & 4.6: Type of House and Average Rent

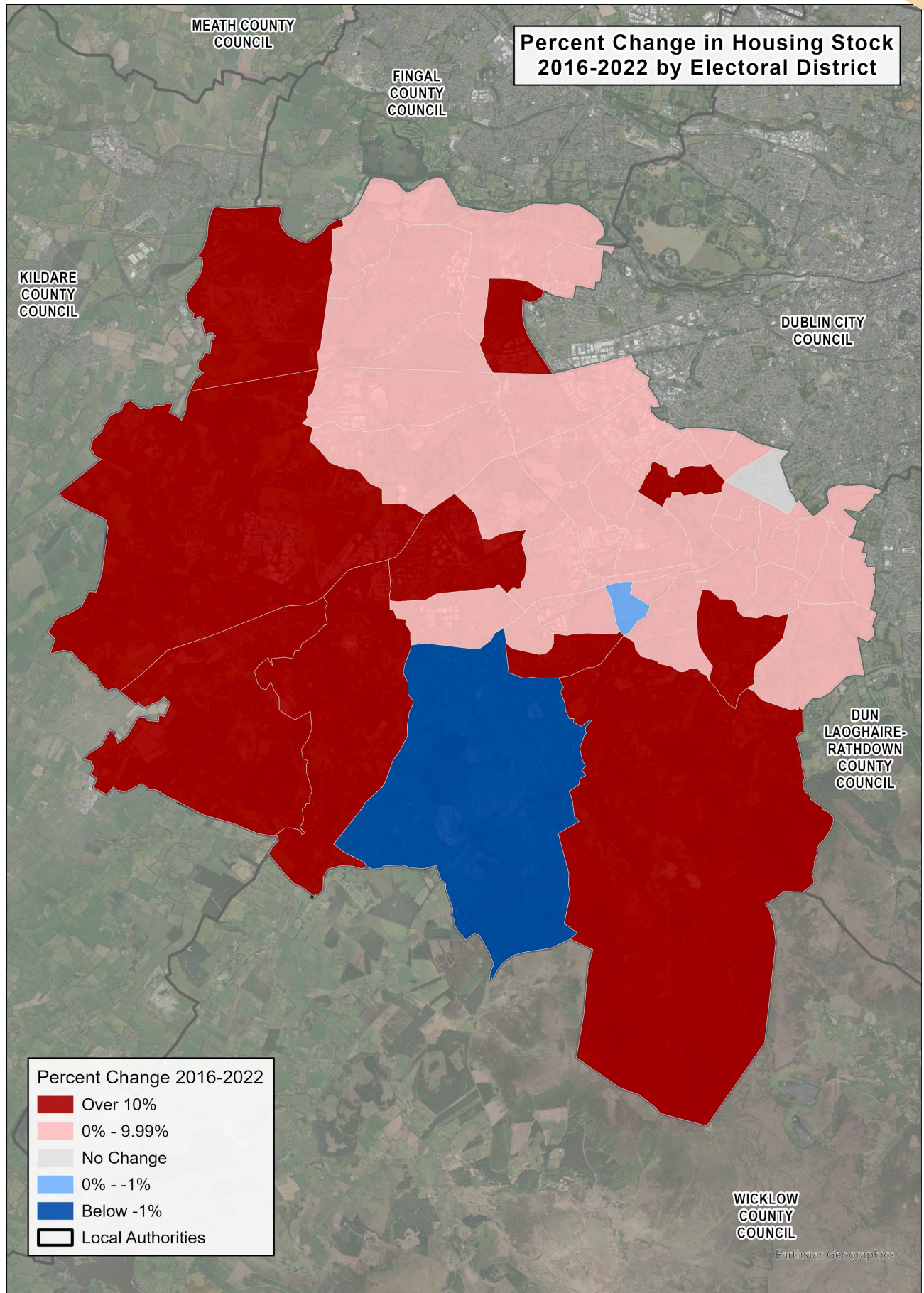


Figure 4.7: Change in housing stock

4.3 Economy and Employment

South Dublin is surrounded by Fingal, Dublin City, Dún Laoghaire Rathdown, Wicklow, and Kildare. Its strategic location means it's well-connected to national/international economic hubs through airports, ports, and roads, making it well positioned for domestic and foreign investment.

Employment- According to the Census, from 2016 to 2022 the share of people aged above 15 year working in South Dublin increased from 55.3% (119,210 persons) to 57.8% (137,111 persons). This is slightly higher than the national average of 56%. Almost 11% of the population aged above 15 report to be students. Only 1.4% of males report that their principal status is to *look after home/family* compared to 11.4% of females. 1 in 7 people in South Dublin over the age of 15 are retired.

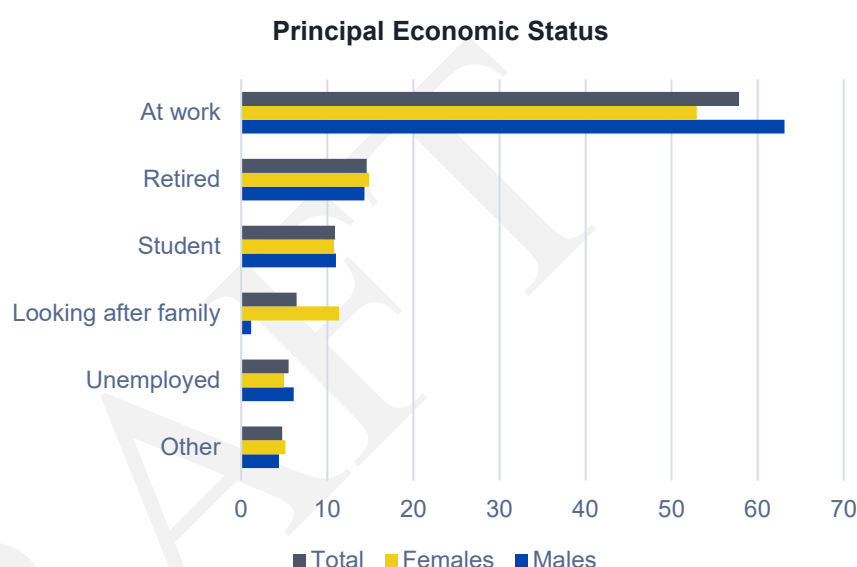


Figure 4.8: Principal Economic Status (%)

Key Industry Sectors- According to the 2022 Census, majority of the occupations in South Dublin belong to Commerce and Trade (28.4%, 38,964 persons) and Professional Services (24.7%, 33,900 persons). The share of females working in Professional Services is 36.9% where as the it is only 13.6% for males (figure 4.9).

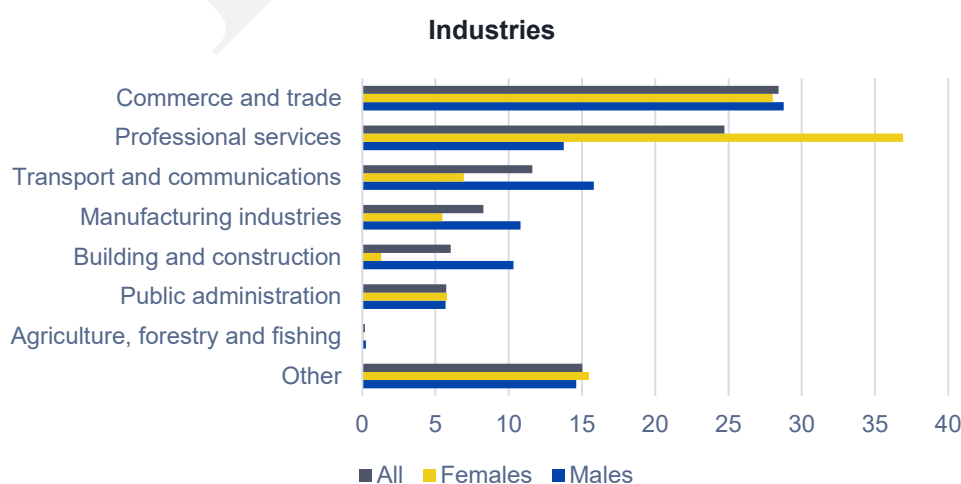


Figure 4.9: Labour force by broad industries (%)

4.3 Economy and Employment contd.

Occupations- In 2022, almost 20% (28,879 persons) of the residents in South Dublin who are working/employed were working in professional occupations. This was followed by associate professional occupations (12.6%, 18,661 persons) and administrative occupations (11.2%, 16,585 persons). As seen in figure 4.10, compared to men, women in the county were more likely to work in professional/associate professional, administrative, and caring/leisure/services occupations.

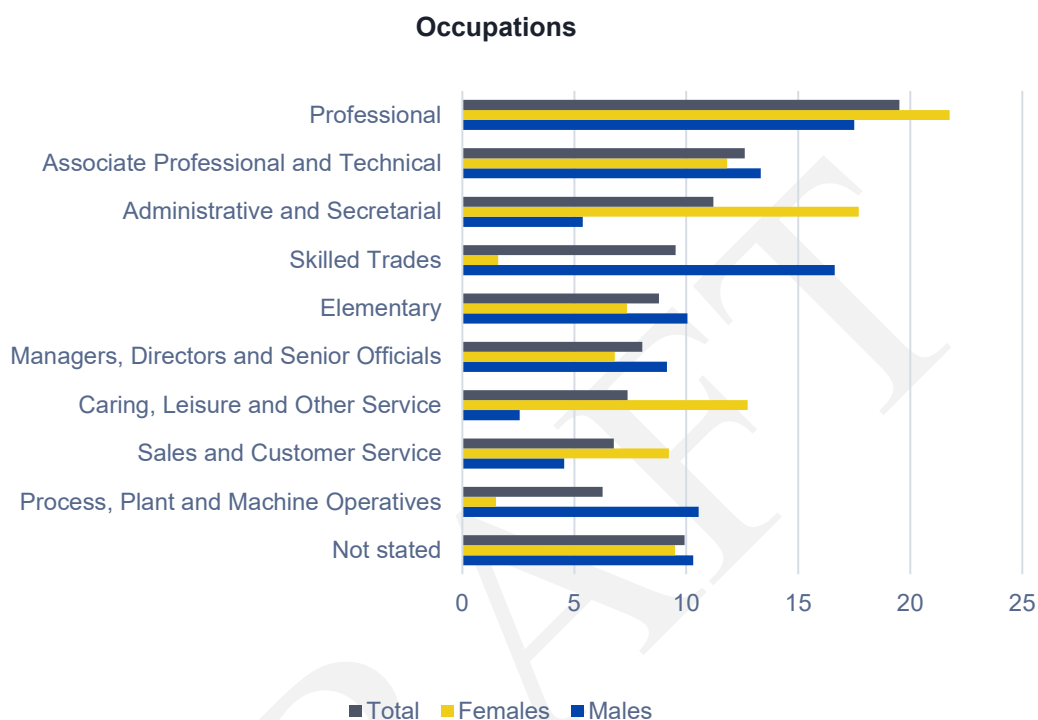


Figure 4.10: Labour force by occupations (%).

Unemployment Rates- As per Census 2022, unemployment rate in South Dublin is 8.7%. Compared to 2016, unemployment rates in 2022 across all age groups reduced in South Dublin. The drop in unemployment rate is especially prominent among the youngest (15-24 years) and oldest (65 years and older) cohorts (figure 4.11).

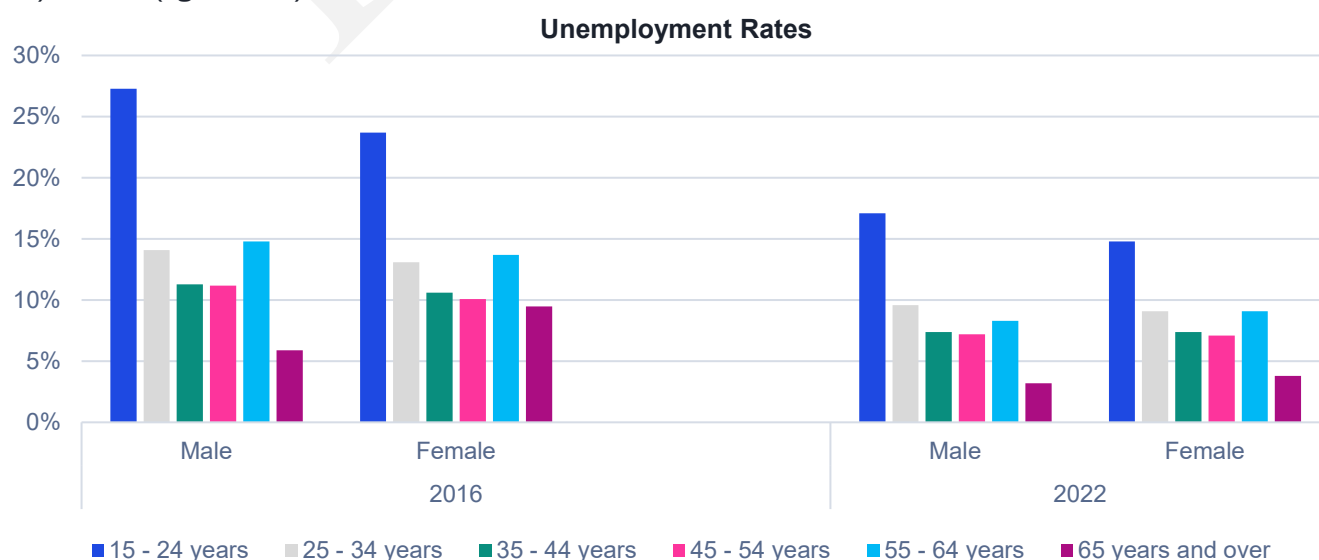


Figure 4.11: Unemployment rates by sex and age groups (Census 2016, 2022)

4.4 Social and Community

Crime

The number of recorded crimes in Clondalkin and Tallaght remains high for several years (figure 4.12). It dropped by 12-15% during the pandemic but increased to almost pre-pandemic levels by the end of 2022 (CSO, 2023).

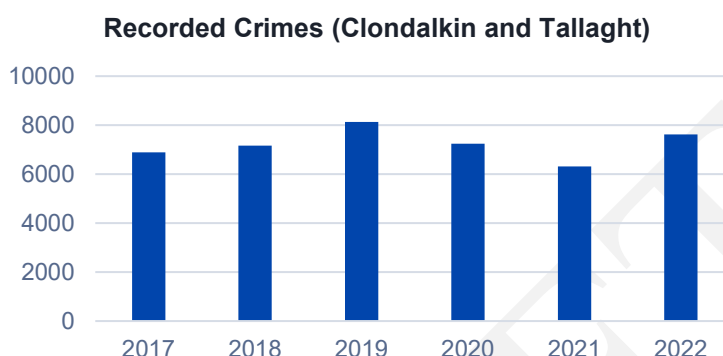


Figure 4.12: Recorded Crimes

Education Levels- According to Census 2022, 33.18% of the population in South Dublin aged 15+ have third level education, similar to the state average of 33.7%. In South Dublin 2.3% of the population aged 15+ are classed as having no formal education compared to the national average of 2.4% (figure 4.13).

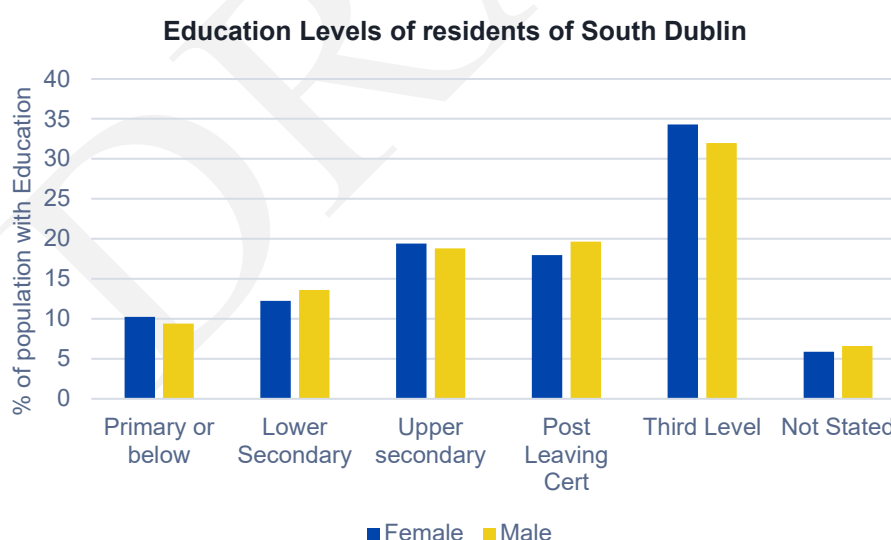


Figure 4.13: Education qualification levels

Household Composition- According to the 2022 Census, married couples with children account for 45.7% of households in South Dublin while One-parent households account for 19.9% of households. From 2016-2022, family units in South Dublin grew by 3.5% compared to the national average of 5.1%. The average household size in 2022 was 2.97 persons, slightly above the national average of 2.74 persons.

Community Health- In the 2022 census, 53.4% of the population in South Dublin reported being in Very Good Health, and 29.6% considered themselves in Good Health. 1.45% of the population considered themselves in Bad Health with 0.3% considering themselves in Very Bad Health.

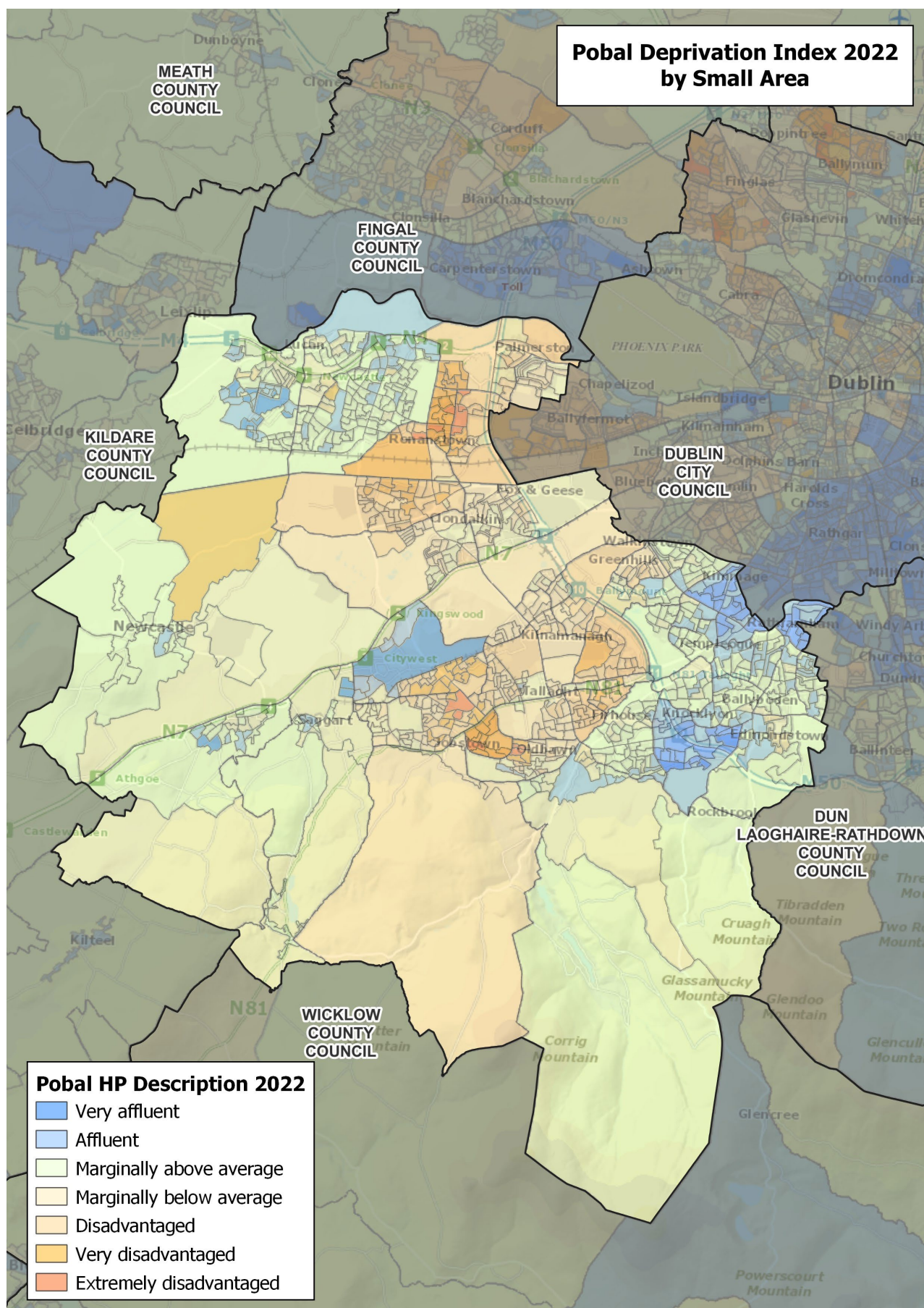


Figure 4.14: Change in Population

4.4 Social and Community contd.

POBAL Score- Based on the 2022 Census, the county is marked by some of pockets of extremely disadvantaged areas including Tallaght-Jobstown (-37.25) and Clondalkin-Moorfield (-37.50). South Dublin also have areas like Tallaght-Fettercairn, where neighbourhoods that are very affluent and disadvantaged are side-by-side. 7.3% of the population in South Dublin live in *Affluent* areas, compared to 76.8% living in *Marginally below average* areas, 13.1% in *Disadvantaged* areas, and 2.74% in *Very Disadvantaged* areas (as seen in figure 4.14).

Social Class – According to Census 2022, 31% of the population in South Dublin reported to belong to the *managerial and technical* social class, while 8.6% of the population belong to the group of *professional workers*. More share women belonged to the *non-manual* social class, whereas more share of men reported to belong to the *skilled manual* social class.

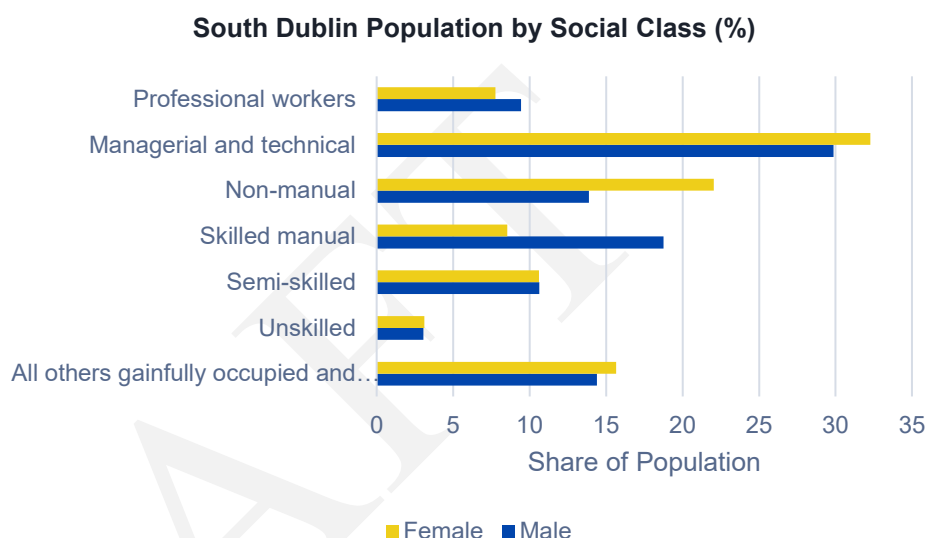
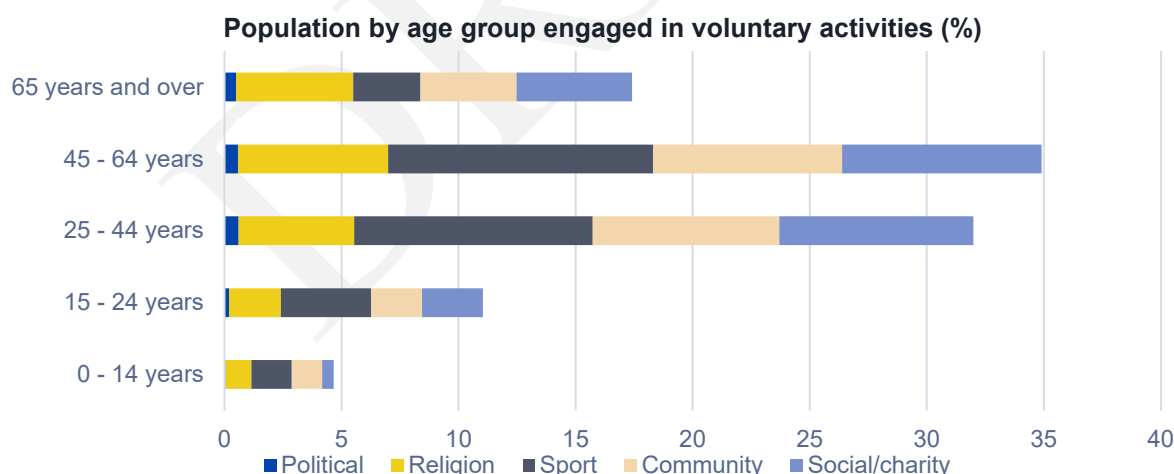


Figure 4.15: Population by social class (Census, 2022)



Figures 4.16: Voluntary activity

Voluntary Activities - According to Census 2022 data, 11% of the population (33,134 individuals) are engaged in voluntary activities. Most of the volunteers are older than 45. Approximately 1 in 3 of the volunteers in South Dublin are engaged in sports related activities and mostly consist of individuals age 25 to 65 years of age. Activities related to religion, social/charity, and community are more popular among older (65+) volunteers.

4.5 Environment

Despite its relatively small size and strong urban character, South Dublin has a diversity of habitats and land uses. As the county seeks to meet its climate objectives, this presents a range of challenges and opportunities for the local population, particularly around work, lifestyle, and travel.

Private Transportation Reliance - Commuter patterns of residents in South Dublin is similar to the national trend where most people use a car followed by on foot, and public transport. Approximately 1 in 2 people (48%) in South Dublin use a car to travel to work, school, college, or childcare.

Electric Vehicle Infrastructure – As of January 2024, South Dublin had more than 50 charging stations (from Plugshare.com)

Renewable Energy Generation – As of February 2024, there are no commercial wind farms in South Dublin. Similarly there are no commercial solar farms, although at least one is being planned i.e. Citywest former golf course). South Dublin County Council are planning a commercial solar farm on the former landfill in Arthurstown, Co. Kildare.

District Heating – In 2023, the Tallaght District Heating Scheme was officially launched. It takes waste heat from an Amazon data centre and uses it to heat public buildings in the area.

Sustainable Energy Communities – As of February 2024, there are 13 active sustainable energy communities in South Dublin according to SEAI.ie.

Environmental Conservation Areas – South Dublin is home to two Special Areas of Conservation (Glenasmole Valley SAC, Wicklow Mountains SAC) and one Special Protection Area (Wicklow Mountains SPA).

Greenway Infrastructure- South Dublin embraces a commitment to sustainability and has three scenic greenways—Dodder Greenway, Grand Canal Greenway, and Royal Canal Greenway. These greenways not only promote eco-friendly transportation but also offer citizens and visitors immersive experiences in the midst of nature

Water Quality- The county contains two major rivers –Liffey River and Dodder River, and a few smaller rivers including the Griffeen, Camac, and Owendoher Rivers. According to the EPA most rivers in the county are have moderate or poor water quality status.

Flooding Risks- Flooding poses a problem for the county's infrastructure and public/private property, arising from freshwater sources (rain and river flooding). The Strategic Flood Risk Assessment SDC Dev. Plan identifies a few areas in the county that are at risk of flooding (e.g., Rathcoole – Saggart, Greenogue – Baldonne, Jobstown – Killinarden etc). The council is already engaged in the development and implementation of several flood alleviation schemes.

5 | scOT Analysis



5.1 SCOT Analysis

A high level study into South Dublin's Strengths, Constraints, Opportunities, and Threats (SCOT) was conducted and several major points across each category were identified. The following section refers to the county's perceived strengths and opportunities.

Strengths – can be understood as the **advantages** of South Dublin in the **present day**. They can be seen as a 'snapshot' of the present day.

Constraints – can be understood as the **challenges** facing the local authority area at present, where they represent a 'snapshot' of South Dublin.

Opportunities – can be understood as the **future strengths** of a place. They represent the potential advantages available to South Dublin and its communities.

Threats – can be understood as the **future constraints** of a place. They represent the potential challenges facing South Dublin and its communities.

Strengths

- Proximity to major international airport and sea port.
- Transport infrastructure: connections to motorway network and light rail.
- Strong economic base and headquarters of several significant national and multinational companies (e.g. CRH, PM Group, Roadstone)
- Good relationship between private and public sectors.
- Strong private sector innovation.
- Strong culture of social programme innovation.
- Energised and socially minded TU Dublin and DDLETB.
- Even in places of high disadvantage, strong community spirit was evident.
- Presence of the Dublin Mountains, Grand Canal and the Dodder and Liffey Rivers as amenities.

Constraints

- Concentrations of high and extreme disadvantage with intergenerational disadvantage. (i.e. a culture of disadvantage).
- Relatively low density housing in the urban area which reduces cost effectiveness of services and public transport infrastructure. Also tends to add to cost of new build on these lands.
- Large areas of housing with no identifiable core to bring people together and encourage the development of retail and other businesses.
- Violence, crime and anti-social behaviour.

Opportunities

- Use of green space to connect people with nature, reduce pollution, sequester carbon and improve both the mental and physical health of the population.
- Increase success in accessing government and EU funding for economic and social programmes.
- Scale up innovative social programmes.
- Deepen the relationship between the public and private sectors to make local businesses more profitable and resilient to change.
- Economic opportunities in the Green Economy.
- Use the existing network of urban villages to strengthen community cohesion and increase pride in place.
- Greatly increase public transport provision.
- Roll out micro-generation, retrofitting and community heat schemes to greatly reduce heating costs and greenhouse gas emissions from homes and businesses.
- Break the cycle of disadvantage by supporting the provision of homework clubs, youth clubs, sport, nutritious meals, and connecting schools with local businesses and further/third level education providers.
- Empowering locals to lead the regeneration of their communities.

Threats

- Growth in racism and bigotry.
- Greater wealth disparity.
- Reduction in government and EU funding supports for social and economic purposes.
- Economic downturn and geopolitical unrest.
- Cost of living continues to increase beyond average incomes and social welfare/pension payments.
- Emergence of synthetic opioids.
- Expansion of services – especially in health, education and for those with additional needs – not matching population growth.
- Taking the health of the local business sector for-granted.

6 | Consultation Findings



6.1 Consultation Process & Findings

This Chapter summarises the various consultations which were undertaken as part of the analysis to inform the South Dublin LECP 2024-2030. The LECP has been developed in a collaborative and cooperative manner through engagement with a wide range of key stakeholders including the general public, community representative groups, County Council, state agencies, County Councillors, education providers and the private sector. The following was undertaken:

- Two face to face public consultation sessions
- A specific community and business group consultation session
- Individual meetings with key stakeholders from the public, private and community sectors
- Visits to two DEIS primary schools
- Meetings with two sets of second level Transition Year students concerning youth disadvantage
- Presentations to all Area Committees of the Local Authority
- Two consultation sessions with County Councillors.
- Online business survey
- Online community survey
- Written submissions invited
- Three online group workshops with key stakeholders to aid the prioritisation process for the implementation plan

The aim of these engagements, in conjunction with the socio-economic analysis, was to identify key priorities and needs that could be addressed through the high-level goals, objectives and actions of the plan and reflected in the desired outcomes. This includes community elements related to areas such as service provision and social inclusion and economic elements related to areas such as developing the green economy and attracting new investment. Three later online workshop sessions were held with key stakeholders to help prioritise the various actions for the first implementation plan. This was complemented by further meetings with nominated action leads.

The extensive consultation exercise was, therefore, designed to identify opportunities and needs as well as secure vital buy-in from key stakeholders who would be the drivers and champions of specific actions of the Implementation Plan. In doing so, the public participation process generated a sense of shared ownership for the high-level goals, and secured the buy-in of key stakeholders, including the public.

The targeted engagement process brought together key stakeholders from a wide range of fields including government agencies, the private sector, community and voluntary groups, the environment, health, education, as well as younger and older groups. Examples of representative groups which were involved include the HSE, TU Dublin, South Dublin County Volunteer Centre, DDLETB, South Dublin Chamber of Commerce, PPN, South Dublin County Partnership, Clondalkin Drug and Alcohol Taskforce, Tallaght Drug and Alcohol Taskforce and An Garda Síochána.

6.2 Key Themes from the Consultation

6.2.1 Social Issues, Vulnerability, and Community Engagement

Addressing issues of disadvantage and wealth disparities in distinct areas of the South Dublin requires tailored and localized interventions.

- Most of the consultations identified the need to advocate for comprehensive strategic investments to address socio-economic challenges in deprived areas. To foster community resilience and development, inclusivity across all age groups should also be considered.
- Safety was a crucial issue that often came up. Prioritizing the safety of young people requires a holistic approach, encompassing community safety measures and strategic improvements (e.g. public lighting and CCTV infrastructure).
- A related issue was recognizing the vulnerability of 8-11-year-olds, especially in the context of social media exposure. A holistic strategy is imperative, focusing on the overall well-being and developmental needs of these young individuals.
- There is an urgent need to address the serious issues of substance misuse in South Dublin. Implementing targeted programs for prevention, treatment, and community support is crucial in promoting rehabilitation and reducing the impact of addiction on individuals and the community at large.
- Participants also highlighted the importance of focussing on children within families impacted by substance misuse. The unique challenges they face must be addressed by fostering supportive environments, and providing resources for education and personal development.
- Issues related to safety, vulnerability, and substance misuse that came up in various consultations align with the results of the community survey. As reflected in figure 6.1, most people want to increase policing activities in their neighbours. Safety concerns also came up many times in the business survey.

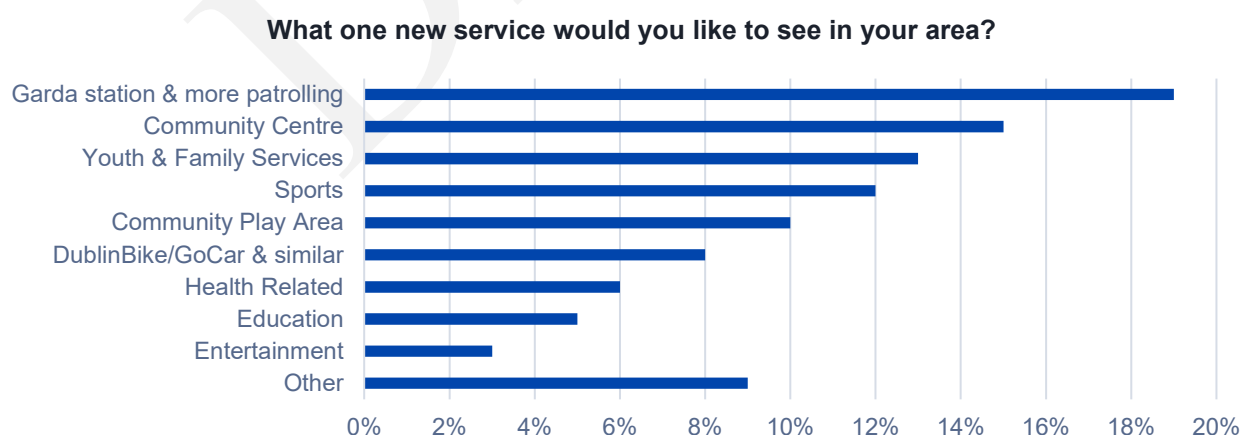


Figure 6.1: One new service needed in the area - Community Survey.

- Consultations revealed the relevance of multilingual outreach programs to enhance communication. Such strategies foster meaningful engagement with various communities, creating a sense of belonging and promoting active participation in collective initiatives.

6.2.2 Employment, Housing, and Transportation

Social issues such as challenges with social mobility, intergenerational unemployment, and disadvantage contribute to a complex employment landscape. Targeted interventions are necessary to break these cycles and create more inclusive opportunities.

- Mismatch between the skills of the residents of South Dublin and jobs available in the county were brought to attention during the consultations. This is also clear from figures 6.2 and 6.3 which shows that the majority of residents in the county are employed and work in South Dublin.

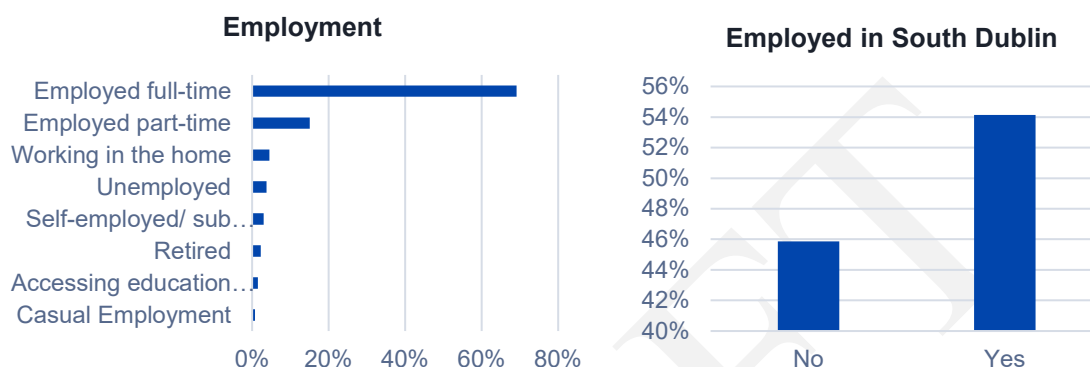


Figure 6.2 & 6.3: Employment - Community Survey.

- Availability of affordable housing was identified as a barrier which not only affects the local housing market but also hinders the attraction and retention of employment opportunities in the county. Solutions must focus on creating affordable living options. Beyond basic housing needs, there were regular comments from diverse audiences to create communities and not just housing estates.
- A related but different issue identified was housing challenges for upper management. There is a need to solve this aspect of housing since it has the potential to encourage economic growth and diverse living options for the community.
- Transportation challenges pose significant barriers for individuals seeking employment within the county. Addressing these issues is crucial for fostering a more accessible job market. This is also captured in figure 6.4.
- The need for cleaning up estates and tackling litter problems, particularly in disadvantaged areas were repeatedly mentioned during consultations. Comments about having greater connections with nature were regularly made. Both sets of primary school children visited for this plan were particularly focused on this and having better opportunities to play in safe, clean, nature friendly areas.
- Recognizing the unique needs of the Traveller community, there is a pressing need for the provision of appropriate housing and supports.

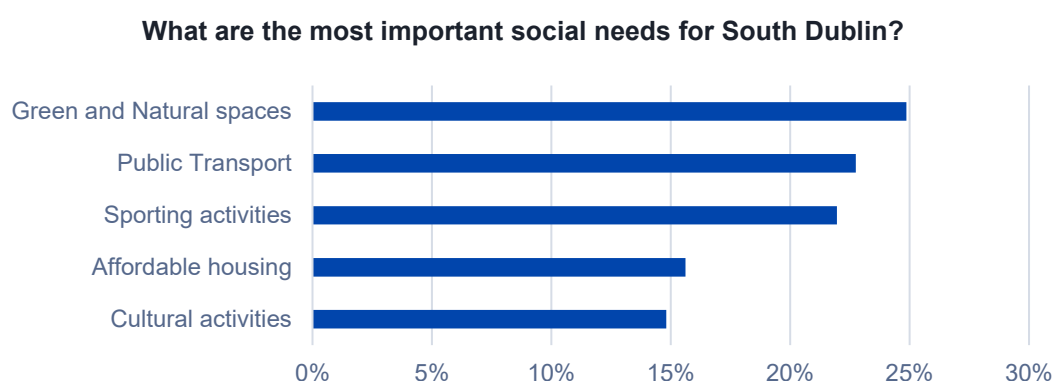


Figure 6.4: Social Needs - Community Survey.

6.2.3 Education, Innovation and Business Supports

- There was emphasis on the importance of vocational courses that align with the interests of children (especially in disadvantaged areas) which can help bridge the skills gap. Providing practical skills that improve their employability will benefit the local workforce.
- A demand for upskilling initiatives was mentioned multiple times during the consultations. Focus is required on sustainability, tech, construction and vocational skills to meet the evolving demands of the job market and providing individuals with the tools for long-term success. This is also captured in the community survey (see figure 6.5).

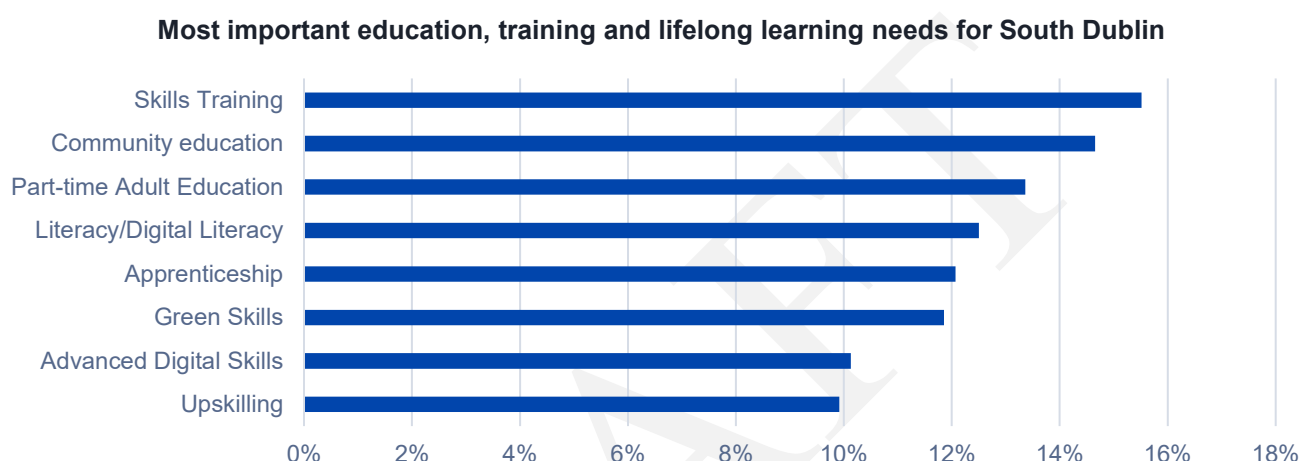


Figure 6.5: Educational Needs - Community Survey.

- A need to increase schools catering to autistic children and those with other additional needs was identified. This underscores the importance of accessible education. Ensuring inclusivity in educational settings is critical in promoting diverse and supportive learning environments that fit the needs of all in the community.
- It was felt that communication on the supports available for business could be improved. A majority of those who responded in the business survey were not aware of the Green business supports and services available from the LEO. In general, within the community there was a low awareness of the available business supports (see figure 6.6).

Do you know about the supports and services that are available from your Local Enterprise Office?

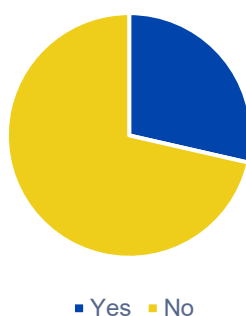


Figure 6.6: Awareness of Business Supports- Community Survey.

6.2.3 Education, Innovation and Business Supports (cont.)

- The need for a variety of spaces where business could scale up as required and where benefits of clustering could be created was seen to be crucial for driving economic growth and job creation.
- The lack of data on business activities in South Dublin was brought to attention through the consultations. Availability of this data is important while making informed decisions and providing targeted support. It ensures resources are used efficiently to foster growth.
- Another issue particularly for the business community is its reluctance to engage with government agencies. This must be addressed since such engagement is essential for establishing effective public-private partnerships and ensuring businesses receive the support they need to thrive.
- The need for more economic land zones and the promotion of Private Public Partnership models were identified to be important components in creating an environment conducive for business development.
- Addressing barriers to accessing the land bank and vacant buildings for private businesses were identified to be essential for economic growth. It will ensure businesses have the physical space needed for their operations.
- Lack of suitable business supports, cost of doing business and costs of housing/living came across as the major constraints in the business survey (figure 6.7). It is worth noting that with the business supports issue much of this perception may be down to lack of awareness of supports, rather than appropriate supports not being available.

South Dublin's main constraints as a place to do business



Figure 6.7: Constraints of doing Business - Business Survey.

6.2.4 Community and Quality of Life

- A compelling need exists for the establishment of safe, public play areas for both children and teenagers, particularly after 5 pm. Such spaces are instrumental in providing children with secure environments for recreational activities, promoting physical and social development.
- The need for more green spaces and parks came across often in consultations. This was also captured while talking to school children and in the general public through the community survey (see fig 6.4). The school children also talked frequently about accessing nature.
- It became apparent during consultation that there was an insufficient number of community centres. There is a need for more spaces to cater to diverse community needs.
- Emphasis on the creation of child friendly spaces within community centres, particularly for autistic children, aiming to foster inclusivity and support their unique requirements for positive experiences.
- Identification of issues related to access to sports facilities and clubs was a feature during consultations. Most people who participated in the community survey pointed out the need to improve sports and recreation facilities in South Dublin in order to improve their health and wellbeing (see figure 6.8).

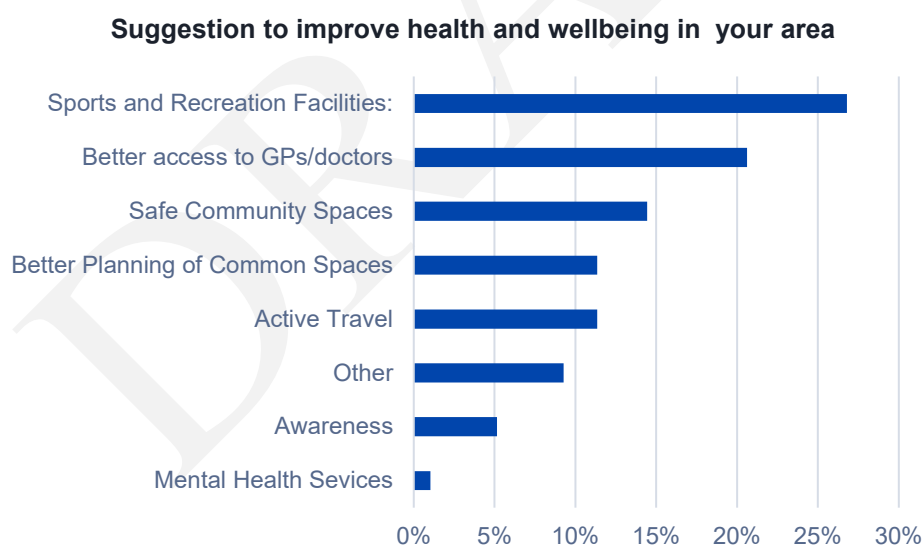


Figure 6.8: Suggestions to improve health and wellbeing - Community Survey.

6.2.4 Community and Quality of Life (cont.)

- Advocacy for robust support mechanisms for outreach programs and initiatives to address racism in deprived and disadvantaged areas, promoting community cohesion and equality.
- There is much scope to improve the quality of services and facilities in South Dublin. The lack of services related to safety & community, and facilities of parks/playgrounds/sports were mentioned often by almost all stakeholders in the consultations (figure 6.9).

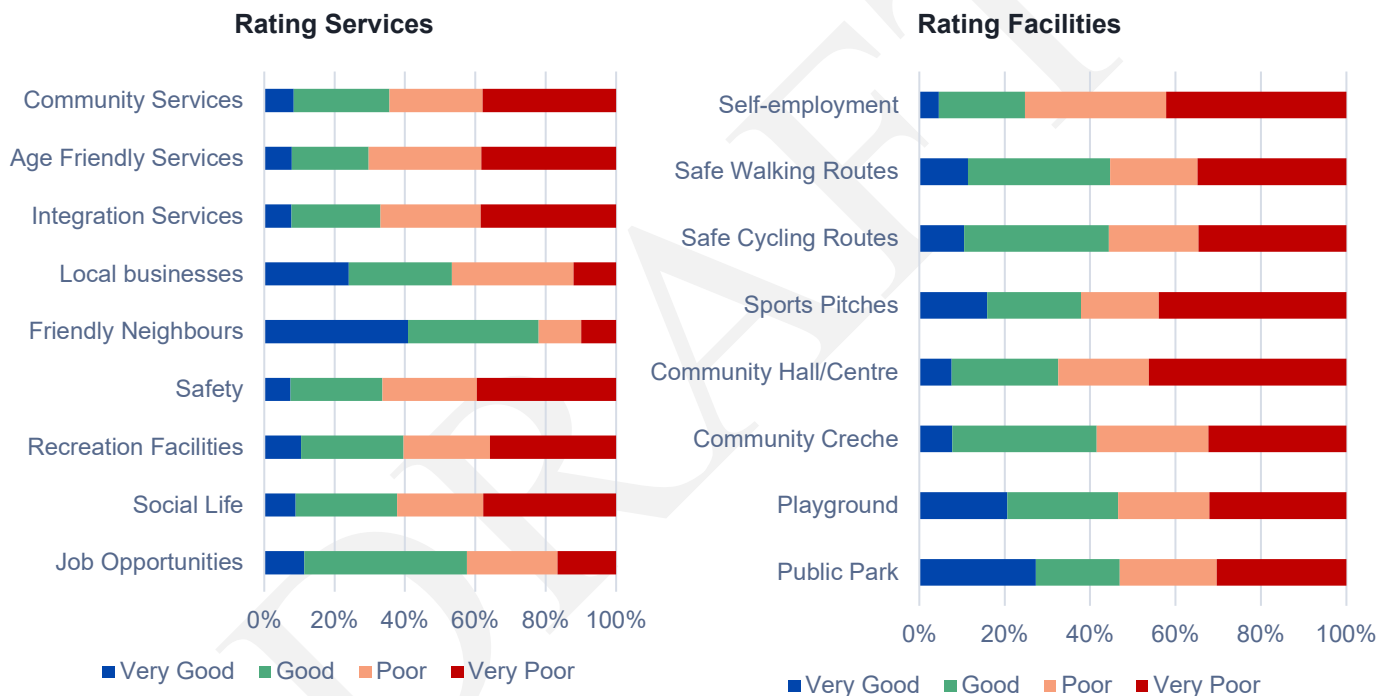


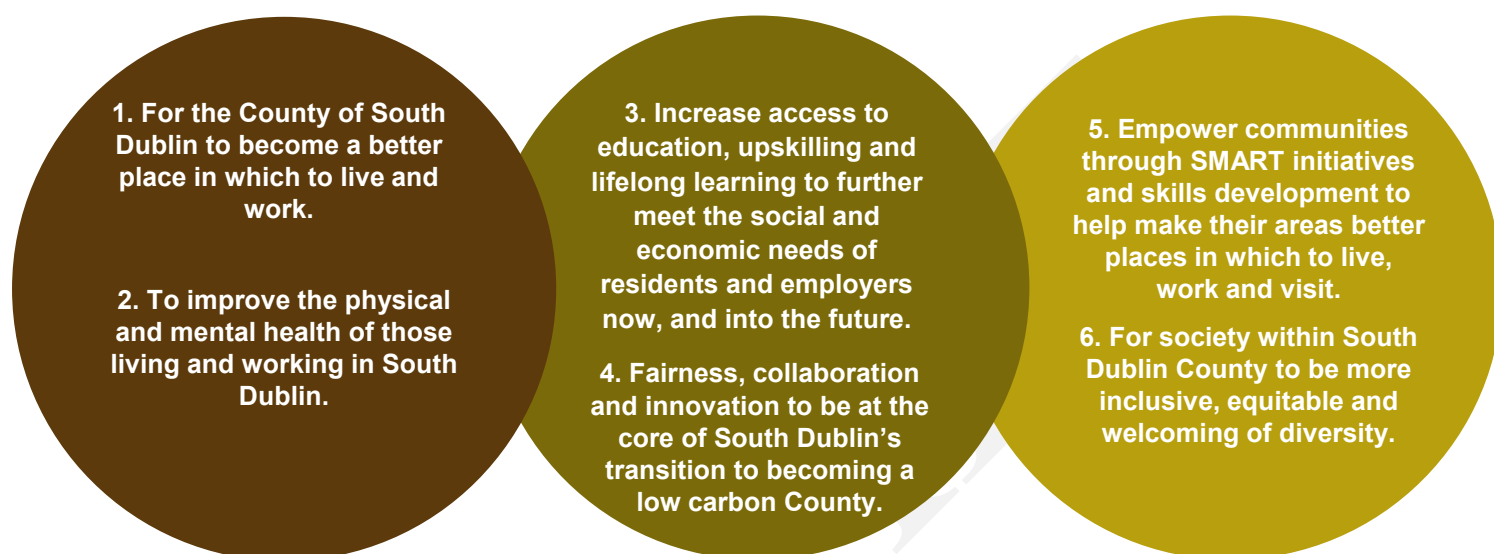
Figure 6.9: Rating Services and Facilities - Community Survey.

7

High-Level Goals, Objectives, Actions & Outcomes

High Level Goals

South Dublin County Council together with the LCDC, SPC for Economic Development, Enterprise and Tourism and other key stakeholders have developed six high-level goals with associated objectives, actions and desired outcomes to assist in guiding the direction of the county over the 2024-2030 period. Their development has been informed from the findings of the socio-economic analysis, stakeholder and public consultation, and the review of existing policies at local, regional and national level.



The six High Level Goals align with the suggested Themes in the LECP Guidelines:

- Health and Wellbeing (High Level Goals 2, 5 & 6)
- Economic Development (High Level Goals 1, 3, 4 & 5)
- Community and Local Development (High Level Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6)
- Climate Action (High Level Goal 4)

As outlined in the following chapter, the goals, objectives, actions and outcomes cover both economic and community elements as required by the LECP guidelines. They have been designed to positively contribute to the economic and community development of South Dublin and are aligned with the overall ambition for an innovative, agile, inclusive, prosperous and sustainable county.

The high-level goals, objectives, actions and outcomes support the crosscutting priorities outlined in the LECP guidelines. They also support the public sector duty to promote equality, prevent discrimination and protect human rights. Crosscutting priorities addressed in this LECP include: sustainability, equality, poverty, rurality, age and disability.

The sections that follow outline each high-level goal, along with the associated objectives, actions and desired outcomes (related to the goals and objectives) in more detail. All the actions have been linked with their corresponding Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Overall, there are 24 Objectives and 119 Actions.

- High Level Goal 1 has 5 Objectives and 27 Actions.
- High Level Goal 2 has 4 Objectives and 13 Actions.
- High Level Goal 3 has 5 Objectives and 22 Actions.
- High Level Goal 4 has 4 Objectives and 18 Actions.
- High Level Goal 5 has 4 Objectives and 21 Actions.
- High Level Goal 6 has 2 Objectives and 18 Actions.

All the various actions in this LECP have been checked against the National Development Plan, Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy and County Development Plan to ensure that they are in keeping with those documents. The initial Implementation Plan in Section 8 shows the alignment with relevant National Development Plan and RSES Objectives.

The final LECP has been checked to ensure alignment of High-Level Goals and objectives with the National Climate Action Plan 2024 and the South Dublin County Council Climate Action Plan 2024–2029. The objectives and actions under goal four specifically focus on climate change.

The initial prioritised actions related to the goals are included in the 2-year Implementation Plan in Chapter 8. All of these measures are in line with the provisions of the existing County Development Plan and the wider planning framework (refer to “Overriding Status of the Plan” text at section 1.7).

DRAFT

Goal 1: For the County of South Dublin to become a better place in which to live and work.

Objective 1.1: Working in collaboration with relevant groups (e.g. Housing Development Steering Group, Local Travel Accommodation Consultative Committee, Housing Disability Steering Group) support the provision of housing that meets the requirements of an expanding population with varying needs.

Need for objective: There is significant demand for housing in South Dublin. In 2016, the population of South Dublin was 288k. Two years later in 2018, the National Development Plan projected that the population would grow a further 50k by 2031. However, that projection is likely to be passed several years early. By Census 2022, South Dublin's population had grown 8% to 301k. Since 2022, the national rate of population increase has steepened. South Dublin is now the fourth largest local authority by population size, after Dublin City, County Cork and Fingal. Aside from housing pressures caused by the sheer increase in overall number of people, the profile of the population is changing. For instance, although the population of South Dublin is on average two years younger than the national figure, the overall number of older residents living in the Local Authority area is growing. Similarly, the number of people from the Traveller Community has increased. Aside from the provision of sufficient numbers of homes, affordability is a significant concern. During stakeholder consultation the availability of affordable housing was identified as a barrier which not only affects the local housing market but also hinders the attraction and retention of employment opportunities in the county.

Action 1.1.1. In line with the County Development Plan, continue to deliver Housing for All, the Housing Delivery Action Plan, Homeless Action Plan, Traveller Accommodation Plan and any subsequent plans. For all new plans the following is to be done: an adequate assessment of need in the preparation of these plans; implementation of the public sector equality and human rights duty in the preparation of these plans; and putting in place effective and meaningful structures to progress these plans.



Action 1.1.2. Work in collaboration with housing developers to ensure that large new housing developments are designed to embrace the objectives on quality design and healthy place making in the County Development Plan or relevant local area plans.



Action 1.1.3. Work with relevant partners (e.g. Housing Development Steering Group, Local Travel Accommodation Consultative Committee, Housing Disability Steering Group) to facilitate the continued creation of increased housing options for older people (e.g. rightsizing), people with disabilities, Travellers and those with additional needs, to support the provision of independent and/or assisted living.



Key desired outcomes

More housing. Communities are created and not just housing estates. More people interacting positively with their neighbours. Increased quality of life. Improved mental and physical health.

Goal 1 contd.

Objective 1.2: South Dublin is to be a safer place for all.

Need for objective: Crime is a significant issue in South Dublin. Anti-social behaviour, theft, violence and drug related crime in general have had a serious effect on the quality of life of residents in certain South Dublin housing estates. There is a general correlation between crime and areas of social disadvantage. In two of these areas, drug and alcohol task forces exist to try and address the issues. Aside from undermining residents' quality of life, anti-social behaviour impacts on commercial investment decisions. During consultation for this plan, safety frequently came up both as a social and economic issue. In the community survey when people were asked 'what one new service would you would like to see in your area? The most popular response was 'Garda Station and more patrolling'. Safety even arose during the two consultation sessions with primary school children.

Action 1.2.1. Support Cuan, the Domestic, Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SDGBV) Agency and support the provision of domestic , sexual and gender based violence services in South Dublin by creating a communications campaign to increase awareness, prevent and mitigate against domestic, sexual and gender-based violence in the County.



Action 1.2.2. Work with relevant agencies to address issues of elder-abuse and building capacity to respond.



Action 1.2.3. Continue to support the existing Community Based CCTV Scheme.



Action 1.2.4. Further develop and promote the network of Garda Clinics across South Dublin to facilitate easy interaction between residents, businesses and An Garda Síochána.



Action 1.2.5. Create a directory of Community Gardaí in the County, contact details and their services. Support the recruitment of additional Community Gardaí.



Goal 1 contd.

Action 1.2.6. In an effort to help design crime out of new housing and public realm schemes, An Garda Síochána are to be consulted on the design of all new proposed SDCC public realm and housing schemes.



Action 1.2.7. Explore opportunities to deepen the interaction between South Dublin County Council and An Garda Síochána, including sharing information and consultation with regards to the significant reduction of anti-social behaviour.



Action 1.2.8. To establish and support the Community Safety Partnership(s) for the county of South Dublin.



Key desired outcomes

A safer county with less crime. A better place in which to live, visit and do business in.

Objective 1.3: Improve the aesthetic appearance of our County in the interest of its Economic and Social Development.

Need for objective: There is a growing body of evidence that connects the physical attractiveness of a place to its economic prosperity. Thanks to a 'beauty premium' more attractive places tend to have stronger population and economic growth than places deemed less attractive. There is also a strong body of evidence to indicate that greater opportunities to connect with nature – especially in places with high biodiversity – increases people's level of well-being, and directly impacts their mental and physical health. In the community survey undertaken for this plan, 'Green and natural spaces' was the most popular answer for the question on most important social need.

Action 1.3.1. Continue to address areas of dereliction and vacancy. Provide advice on grants schemes/assistance to property owners.



Action 1.3.2. Support the installation of striking, impressive public art across South Dublin.



Goal 1 contd.

Action 1.3.3. Deliver on the Actions of the Litter Management Plan 2023 -2025. Continue to support Tidy Towns groups, other community groups, and individuals in their efforts to keep their area clean.



Action 1.3.4. Where practical, all publicly funded public realm schemes are to primarily use high-quality natural materials.



Action 1.3.5. Support the aesthetic appearance of villages and district shopping centres, industrial and retail units.



Key desired outcomes

Less vacancy and dereliction. Cleaner, more visually pleasing environment. Better mental health. Greater pride in place.

Objective 1.4: Enhance the citizen and visitor cultural experience of South Dublin through arts, culture, heritage and tourism.

Need for objective: Although South Dublin now has a population in excess of 300k, it has a relatively low number of cultural amenities. This is likely due to the relative newness of most of the residential areas in South Dublin, the proximity of Dublin City Centre's large cultural and tourism amenities, and the historic under investment in culture by the State when compared to other Western European countries. There are several benefits to having additional and improved amenities: 1. It will increase the quality of life for residents. 2. It will create direct employment and stimulate wider investment from the private sector. 3. Having greater access to cultural amenities has been shown to improve people's well-being. 4. More and better cultural and tourist amenities are likely to lead to improvements in community cohesion and residents' sense of belonging. 5. Greater community artistic creativity is likely to lead to greater and commercial creativity/innovation.

Action 1.4.1. Support the continued development of a vibrant and innovative arts and cultural scene across South Dublin through the implementation of the ReFRAME Arts Development Strategy and any subsequent plans.



Action 1.4.2. Support the implementation of the South Dublin Heritage Plan and any subsequent plans.



Goal 1 contd.

Action 1.4.3. Support the implementation of the South Dublin Tourism Strategy.



Action 1.4.4. Support the progression of key tourism capital projects including: Lucan House, Rathfarnham Castle Courtyard and Stables, Corkagh Park, Tallaght Stadium, Dublin Mountains Visitor Centre, and Tallaght Tourism and Heritage Project. Universal design principals are to be followed in the design of the various capital projects.



Action 1.4.5. Implement Our Library, Our Future: South Dublin Libraries Development Plan 2023–2027, incorporating the Libraries Capital Programme for the establishment of new libraries.



Action 1.4.6. Support community-based and other local businesses in the cultural, craft and tourism related sectors.



Key desired outcomes

Greater pride in place. A more vibrant place to live in. Less loneliness and social isolation. More visitors into South Dublin. More amenities for both visitors and locals to enjoy. More employment.

Objective 1.5: Increase Employment across the County for all and support both existing and new businesses.

As the population grows, so does the need to create more employment. Although across South Dublin the level of people over 15 in employment is slightly higher than the national average (Census 2022), there are strong local variations. Areas of higher social disadvantage tend to have lower employment rates. As a result, there is not only a need to create more jobs for a growing population but to bring people more people into the workforce from the areas of higher unemployment through training, providing necessary supports and creating jobs that match their skills and abilities.

There is a need to support South Dublin's retail hierarchy as outlined in the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy which identifies Tallaght and Liffey Valley as Level 2 [Major Town Centres and County (Principal) Town Centres], and Adamstown, Crumlin (Ashleaf), Clonburris, Clondalkin, Citywest, Kilnamanagh, Lucan and Rathfarnham as Level 3 [Town and/or District Centres and Sub- County Town Centres (Key Service Centres)] within the retail hierarchy. Supporting the hierarchy will support jobs and the ability of various centres to act as places of socialisation for the surrounding communities.

Goal 1 contd.

Action 1.5.1. Expanding on the success of Grange Castle Business Park, South Dublin County Council will continue to look to attract both foreign and national investment in line with the implementation of the Grange Castle Business Park masterplan, which will support the creation of up to 12,000 new jobs.



Action 1.5.2. Sustain and grow businesses by:

- Providing SMEs funding for early-stage business development, growth and business expansion.*
- Provide training and mentoring support to develop the upskilling of all businesses within the County.*
- Expand on the existing NEWS/ SCENE network and the creation of Leaders in Business network.*
- Promotion and continued growth of the Business Support Fund across the County.*
- Supporting businesses in attracting employees from groups underrepresented in the workforce.*



Action 1.5.3. In line with the DREP, encourage and support the development of clusters within the region. As part of this, provide for incubation space within the County to meet the needs of different business sectors.



Action 1.5.4. Promote the role of social enterprises within the County through job creation and delivering services to the citizens of South Dublin through collaboration on joint initiatives between relevant stakeholders. Highlight the importance of Social Enterprises and the work they do within the community. Support Social Enterprises to scale and diversify, thereby creating job opportunities within local communities, with particular attention to those from identified communities.

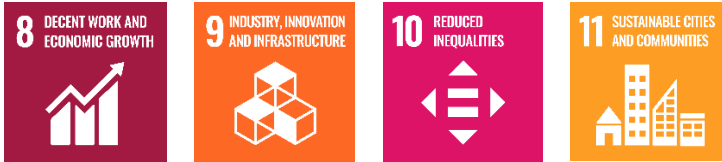


Action 1.5.5. Support existing and new businesses by improving the business environment across the County through proactive, strategic planning opportunities, aligned to Local Area Plans.



Goal 1 contd.

Action 1.5.6. As part of regeneration efforts, provide sufficient supports for enterprises to grow and create employment. Particular attention is to be given to supporting the City Edge Project and Tallaght Town Centre.



Key desired outcomes

A better economic ecosystem. More employment and greater diversity of employment opportunities.

Goal 2: To improve the physical and mental health of those living and working in South Dublin.

Objective 2.1: Work with national and local agencies to support the residents of South Dublin in improving their health, well-being, and lifestyle.

Need for objective: In the 2022 census, 53.4% of the population in South Dublin reported being in Very Good Health, and 29.6% considered themselves in Good Health. This was effectively in line with the national figures. However, the average across the Local Authority area obscures a truer picture of local variation which is generally aligned with social disadvantage. In more prosperous areas, levels of positive descriptions of personal health were better than in less prosperous areas. For example, in one reasonably prosperous small area in Citywest, 95% of the residents described their health as being very good or good for Census 2022. Only 7% said they smoked. By contrast, in a more socially disadvantaged small area less than 1km away in Jobstown, only 75% of people described their health as being very good or good. In addition, 22% of people said they smoked.

Action 2.1.1. Harness the Healthy Ireland framework and the Sláintecare Healthy Communities programme for evidence-based initiatives on awareness, participation, physical activity, engagement, mental health, increasing access to green and blue infrastructure, and alcohol / substance misuse. Particular attention should be out on addressing the specific needs of those from identified groups (especially, Black and minority ethnic people, Travellers and Roma), including taking steps to enhance access to and outcomes from health services.



Action 2.1.2. Promote and implement where relevant the actions in the National Mental Health Promotion Plan and Connecting For Life to improve mental health and wellbeing outcomes in the county (including focus on the Traveller Community).



Action 2.1.3. Promote and support active community participation as a means to improve physical and mental health (especially those from identified groups).



Key desired outcomes

Stronger coordination and unity of effort between relevant stakeholders. Improved community mental and physical health.

Goal 2 contd.

Objective 2.2: Develop opportunities to promote a healthy and active County.

Need for objective: The desire for more opportunities to play and exercise came out strongly in the community survey undertaken for this report. Being more active leads to better physical and mental health. It also leads to greater participation in the economy. Growing the health and activity levels of the county is likely to have additional social benefits by increasing interaction between neighbours and thereby helping community cohesion. It will also increase passive surveillance levels at public spaces and community facilities. This typically reduces anti-social behaviour.

Action 2.2.1. Maximise the use and benefit of community, sports, recreation and leisure facilities in the County for participative, health and wellbeing, and community-led activities. Such use is to be inclusive of all needs and abilities.



Action 2.2.2. Implement the Active South Dublin Plan with emphasis on sports, recreation and activity for all and support existing and new sports partnerships and programmes to increase participation levels and physical literacy, especially for families, women, school children, young people, vulnerable (e.g. those living in households where substance misuse is present), and people with disabilities.



Action 2.2.3. Deliver capital works, including the development of additional parks, recreational facilities, teenspaces, playspaces and sporting facilities in line with relevant international, national and local policies and strategies. Ensure various facilities are maintained to a high standard and are easily accessible to target audiences. Universal design principals are to be followed in the design of the various capital projects.



Action 2.2.4. Continue to develop safe walking and cycle routes within the county that will encourage greater



Key desired outcomes

Improved community mental and physical health. Greater social cohesion as people play and exercise together. Less loneliness and social isolation. Better quality of life.

Goal 2 contd.

Objective 2.3: Promote Healthy Eating in the County.

Need for objective: There is a strong body of national and international research to indicate a correlation between social disadvantage, poor diet and poor health. Although information about diet is not specifically recorded in the Census, perception of health is. The results from Census 2022 illustrates the strong overlap in South Dublin between social disadvantage and poorer health. For children, the consequences of poor diet can seriously affect their life into adulthood. Symptoms of poor diet in children can include being underweight, overweight or obese, poor physical growth, tooth decay and lethargy. In some children, this can lead to behavioural problems and poor concentration or difficulties at school. If the generational cycle of social disadvantage is to be addressed, helping some residents – especially children – improve their diets will be important.

Action 2.3.1. To support the key actions under the HSE Healthy Eating Active Living Programme which addresses the key factors that influence the multiple and complex determinants of health of poor diet, physical inactivity and obesity including delivery of evidence-based programmes such as Healthy Food Made Easy and Community Food and Nutrition work ongoing in the Sláintecare Healthy Communities areas. Particular attention is to put on addressing the diverse needs of those from identified groups.



Action 2.3.2. Promote a “grow your own” education programme to schools, communities and businesses.



Action 2.3.3. Maintain and expand allotments and community gardens for local food production in accordance with SDCC's Allotment Policy.



Key desired outcomes

Healthier, more nutritious diets. Less obesity. Fewer incidences of diseases related to poor nutrition (e.g. Type 2 Diabetes, Heart Disease and Stroke, Cancer). Greater social engagement and community cohesion.

Objective 2.4: Work to decrease substance misuse across the county through education and supports.

Need for objective: Substance misuse is a significant issue in South Dublin. This was obvious in the discussions with various stakeholders during consultations for this report. Aside from the personal impact from substance misuse, there is a fallout to the immediate family and friends. In certain estates, substance misuse is so prevalent that it is undermining the quality of the wider for the community. There is also the risk of children falling into criminality associated with the illegal drug trade. The emergence of synthetic drugs has increased the risk of dependency and overdosing.

Goal 2 contd.

Action 2.4.1. Continue to work with the Clondalkin Drug and Alcohol Task Force, the Tallaght Drug and Alcohol Task Force and An Garda Síochána to address drug related intimidation.



Action 2.4.2. Continue to support the work of the Clondalkin Drug and Alcohol Task Force (CDATF) and Tallaght Drug and Alcohol Task Force (TDATF). Explore and pilot new projects with an aim to addressing the substance misuse in our communities.



Action 2.4.3. Work with the Clondalkin Drug and Alcohol Taskforce, the Tallaght Drug and Alcohol Taskforce and the South Western Regional Drugs and Alcohol Taskforce to devise and implement a drugs and alcohol misuse strategy for South Dublin that will provide an impactful all-society approach to addressing the personal and community consequences associated with substance misuse.



Key desired outcomes

Less substance misuse. Less drug related intimidation. Healthier residents with a higher quality of life.

Goal 3: Increase access to education, upskilling and lifelong learning to further meet the social and economic needs of residents and employers now, and into the future.

Objective 3.1: Support the continued development of a pre-school/creche, primary school and secondary school education ecosystem designed to break the cycle of disadvantage.

Need for objective: Certain areas of South Dublin suffer from intergenerational disadvantage (e.g. Jobstown, Clondalkin). Research from the CSO indicates that financial disadvantage in childhood often continues through into adulthood. Children brought up in financial disadvantage are also less likely to obtain a third level education. There is a strong correlation between a parents having obtained a third level qualification and the children eventually doing so. Education is linked with earnings and earning potential, and therefore the risk of poverty. Consequently, by supporting the education of children from disadvantaged backgrounds their chance of progressing economically in life is increased.

Action 3.1.1. Support the development of pre-school service providers – both new and existing – to provide a level of service to children from disadvantaged backgrounds (especially of identified groups) which will help them thrive (e.g. provision of baby rooms, play therapy sessions, speech therapy, assistance to parents about nutrition).



Action 3.1.2. Support the provision/expansion of afterschool homework clubs in primary schools and secondary schools, especially DEIS schools.



Key desired outcomes

Improved literacy and numeracy levels amongst children from disadvantaged backgrounds. Eventual higher rate of progression to further and third level education.

Objective 3.2: Develop more education and training opportunities to ensure that everyone living in South Dublin gains the skills they need to succeed economically and socially, and that the skills needs of local employers are met.

Need for objective: Ireland has a third level education attainment rate well above the EU 27 average. Indeed, according to the CSO, in 2022 62% of persons aged 30-34 had a third level qualification. The 2022 Census also indicated that 33.18% of the population in South Dublin aged 15+ have a third level education. This is similar to the state average of 33.7%. However, once again there is strong local variation within South Dublin. For example, in one small area in Kimmage the level of third level attainment by a person 15+ was 82% (Census 2022). By contrast, in a small area in Clondalkin with a similar sized population, the figure was just 18%. Simply increasing the level of third level education in the places of low attainment is only part of the answer. There needs to be a broad focus on vocational skills, apprenticeships and other skills desirable to employers which will give residents a good quality of life. During consultation it emerged that businesses in several sectors of the local economy were struggling to fill vacant positions. This in turn, is impeding their growth. In the community survey undertaken for this plan, 'skills training' was given as the most popular answer to the question: 'what is the most important education, training and lifelong learning need for South Dublin?'.

Goal 3 contd.

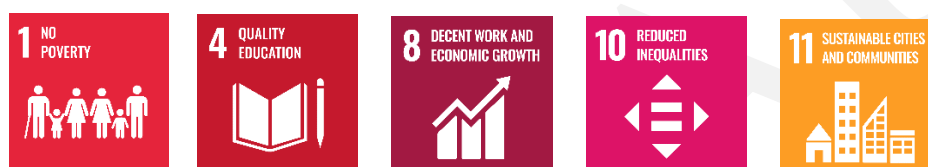
Action 3.2.1. Work with the Department of Education to accelerate the delivery of new schools to meet the needs of growing populations in identified areas.



Action 3.2.2. Support the provision of new and enhanced library services, including digital services. This is to be done through opening new libraries where needed, physically expanding existing buildings where needed, offering complimentary library services, free Wi-Fi, and internet access across all branches, expanded opening hours through My Open Library and developing a series of educational programmes and events.



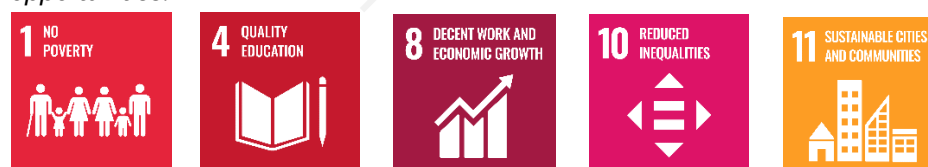
Action 3.2.3. Strengthen and improve outreach programmes from further education and training providers to increase access and participation in further and higher education, especially to degree and masters level (in particular, those from identified groups).



Action 3.2.4. Support second chance education and training through the provision of adult and vocational education opportunities designed for those who have left school early, and other groups, such as former prisoners and those recovering from substance misuse issues.



Action 3.2.5. Provide pathways to employment for students from disadvantaged backgrounds (especially those from identified groups), through the provision of work placements, internships and other development opportunities.



Action 3.2.6. Work with further education providers to expand the provision of vocational courses (i.e. apprenticeships and traineeships) in South Dublin.



Goal 3 contd.

Action 3.2.7. Continue to work with TU Dublin and other Higher Education Institutes to create scholarships and other supports to students from disadvantaged backgrounds (especially those from identified groups) who wish to enter 3rd level education.



Action 3.2.8. Through meetings and research continue to ensure a strong relationship between local employers, LEO and further and higher education providers in South Dublin. Within the context of these relationships, particular regard to be had to enabling progression for students from identified groups.



Action 3.2.9. Develop a skills strategy for South Dublin.



Key desired outcomes

Greater proportion of students from disadvantaged backgrounds obtaining third level and post-graduate qualifications. As many people as possible with an economically desirable skill. An increased number of people ready to enter and stay in the workforce. Greater personal and community wealth. Less poverty. Larger and more skilled workforce for local employers.

Objective 3.3: Develop a Life-long learning provision for the people of South Dublin.

Need for objective: The government's target for the annual participation rate in Lifelong Learning is 64.2% of all adults by 2030. Participating in life long learn has multiple benefits. These include: 1. Flexible upskilling; 2. Opening up career opportunities; 3. An upskilled workforce which increases the attractiveness of South Dublin as a place to have a business in; 4. Supports personal well-being and growth; 5. Networking.

Action 3.3.1. Ascertain any potential barriers people have which impacts their possible participation in life-long learning. Ascertain the ability of libraries, museums, arts centres, community access programmes and further and higher education providers to meet the life-long learning goals of residents and work with providers to address any gaps

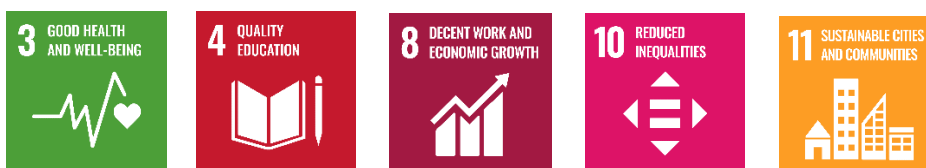


Goal 3 contd.

Action 3.3.2. Provide additional courses as needed that meet the life-long learning goals of South Dublin's residents.



Action 3.3.3. Support older residents in upskilling to start their own business.



Key desired outcomes

A life-long learning provision that more closely matches the needs and desires of residents. Improved community mental health.

Objective 3.4: Increase access to education for all.

Need for objective: South Dublin is becoming an increasingly diverse place. The number of people born in foreign countries living in the county is growing, as are the overall numbers of older people and those with additional needs. South Dublin also has residents living in significant areas of social disadvantage. All of these will need to have sufficient access to an education system that provides them a viable path to having a high quality of life. Bringing more skilled people into the workforce will also be of benefit to local businesses struggling to fill vacant roles. This in turn will bring about a wider economic uplift.

Action 3.4.1. Continue to support efforts by education providers to develop training programmes that are accessible digitally and/or in-person to people of all ages, backgrounds and capabilities. Enhance the physical accessibility of training locations. Universal design principals are to be followed in the design of the various projects.



Action 3.4.2. Continue to support the provision of appropriate education for those with special and additional needs. Assess what additional education facilities and resources are needed for South Dublin's growing number of residents with complex needs. Where possible, reasonable accommodation is to be made for people with disabilities within mainstream education settings.



Goal 3 contd.

Action 3.4.3. Work with partners to adapt education provision to meet specific needs that arise from diversity across the identified groups.



Action 3.4.4. Work to improve physical connections (e.g. bus routes and times, footpaths and crossing points, public lighting, cycle lanes) between South Dublin with TU Dublin's Tallaght Campus and other further education providers in South Dublin.



Action 3.4.5. Continue to support the development of literacy, English language supports, numeracy, household finance, health literacy and nutrition education programmes for people living in disadvantaged areas and from identified groups.



Action 3.4.6. Continue to offer relevant training to meet the current requirements of the business community (e.g. CPDs).



Key desired outcomes

A more educated population. Greater opportunities for those with special and additional needs to gain the skills and knowledge they need to succeed socially and/or economically. Less poverty. More knowledgeable business owners, managers and staff.

Objective 3.5: Deepen connections – especially research – between TU Dublin, DDLETB and South Dublin's businesses and communities.

Need for objective: Having stronger connections between local businesses and further and higher education providers ties those businesses more deeply to South Dublin. It does this by creating a reliance on local researchers and a pipeline of talent. By doing so, the overall level of innovation from businesses within South Dublin would increase. In addition, it means that the particular skills and knowledge needs of employers can be better reflected in what is being thought in existing courses and lead to the creation of new courses to match changes in the economy. In the business survey undertaken for this report workforce availability was given as one of the top constraints to doing business in South Dublin. Finally, certain research in local communities and the dissemination of findings may improve decision making concerning urban regeneration and improving residents' quality of life.

Goal 3 contd.

Action 3.5.1. Support stronger research and development partnerships and wider engagement between TU Dublin, DDLETB, local businesses and other stakeholders.



Action 3.5.2. Encourage greater use of South Dublin by various departments within TU Dublin (e.g. tourism, marketing, entrepreneurship, planning & health sciences) as a place to conduct research, fieldwork and field schools. Ensure any relevant research is brought to the attention of South Dublin County Council and pertinent communities/community groups.



Key desired outcomes

More knowledge available to communities, businesses and other key decision makers about South Dublin.
More innovative businesses and communities.

Goal 4: Fairness, collaboration and innovation to be at the core of South Dublin's transition to becoming a low carbon County.

Objective 4.1: Significantly enhance biodiversity levels across South Dublin.

Need for objective: In the community survey undertaken for this report green and natural spaces' was the most popular answer to the question 'what are the most important social needs for South Dublin?' Connecting with nature was also frequently mentioned during the consultation sessions with primary school children. Although there are some excellent parks in South Dublin with good levels of biodiversity (e.g. Sean Walsh Memorial Park), most of the communal green spaces are dominated by mono-culture, non-native grass varieties. Research now indicates that people get more health benefits from being in a biodiversity rich area than a green space dominated by one or a small number of plant species. With a greater variety of plants, comes more insects, birds and mammals. Given the link between biodiverse places and human well-being, an improved habitat for fauna is also an improved habitat for people. With appropriate planting, there is also the opportunity to draw down carbon from the atmosphere and assist climate action.

Action 4.1.1. Implement the County Biodiversity Plan and County Pollinator Plan, and any successor documents.



Action 4.1.2. Provide assistance to farmers and other significant landowners to manage their land in a manner that will encourage greater biodiversity. Where appropriate, work to facilitate landscape/nature restoration and assist farmers to adopt more sustainable farming practices.



Action 4.1.3. Support the continued development of an innovative and ambitious education programme which empowers all residents, community groups, charities/NGOs, government employers and businesses to contribute positively to improving habitats and biodiversity levels.



Key desired outcomes

Residents, workers and students in South Dublin are to experience nature and high biodiversity levels as part of their daily routines. Far greater levels of biodiversity across South Dublin. People are empowered to contribute positively to reversing biodiversity loss. More opportunities to engage with nature. Improved community mental and physical health profiles.

Objective 4.2: Support South Dublin's businesses and entrepreneurs to take greater advantage of opportunities in the green economy.

Goal 4 contd.

Need for objective: The green economy is an economic mega trend. The commitment under the 2016 UN Paris Agreement to reach net zero by 2050 is pushing much of the global economy to adopt more sustainable approaches to production. The *European Green Deal* was approved in 2020. It is intended to transform the EU into a modern, resource-efficient and competitive economy. The green economy offers opportunities in sustainable construction, low-carbon energy, green consumer products, eco-tourism and sustainable food.

Action 4.2.1. In support of the Climate Action Plan (2024-2029), attract and support companies that are focused on high potential areas of the green economy (e.g. manufacturing and retrofitting).



Action 4.2.2. Engage with communities and businesses to develop skills, promote learning, and build knowledge on climate change and environmental sustainability to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase the uptake of renewable energies.



Action 4.2.3. Support and promote green procurement policies and initiatives across all SDCC departments to reduce waste, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve energy efficiencies.



Key desired outcomes

More jobs. A greener local economy. Less greenhouse gas emissions

Objective 4.3: Make it easier for South Dublin's residents and businesses to conserve energy, generate green energy and adopt circular economy practices.

Need for objective: The main constraint mentioned in the business survey to doing business in South Dublin was the cost of doing so. Coupled with that is the general increase in the cost of living which has exceeded average wage growth. This was also mentioned in the business survey as a significant constraint to doing business. Thus businesses – especially retailers and those in the hospitality sector – are being put under pressure through increased costs of operating and consumers with less spending money. Energy costs have been the main driver to the increase in the cost of living and cost of doing business (directly and indirectly via wage demands caused by the rise in cost of living). In January 2019, the average annual electricity bill for an Electric Ireland customer was €996. By October 2022, the average annual electricity bill had reached €2,176. Reducing the cost of energy through conservation and generation would significantly assist both local businesses and residents in managing their own costs. Similarly, there are possible waste cost savings by engaging more in the circular economy. Aside from the savings to business and households, actions around energy conservation, green energy and the circular economy will assist in the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

Goal 4 contd.

Action 4.3.1. Support the implementation and monitoring of the South Dublin Climate Action Plan (2024-2029).



Action 4.3.2. Continue to develop partnerships with local, regional, and national bodies including TU Dublin – Tallaght / University Hospital Tallaght / Government Services, Tidy Towns, and South Dublin Chamber of Commerce Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) group, to seek to achieve targets on greenhouse gas emissions and improve the health and lifestyles of South Dublin's citizens.



Action 4.3.3. Complete and implement the Clondalkin Decarbonising Zone Implementation Plan. The lessons from the Implementation Plan can be applied throughout South Dublin.



Action 4.3.4. Continue to explore and maximise opportunities for the further development and expansion of district heating and renewable energies.



Action 4.3.5. Continue to support the actions of the National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy 2024 – 2030.



Action 4.3.6. Encourage and educate on best practice in energy management, retrofitting, and renewable energy generation for homes and businesses.



Action 4.3.7. Create and/or promote supports for residents from disadvantaged backgrounds that will help them reduce their heating, transport and food costs, while at the same time reducing their greenhouse gas emissions.



Goal 4 contd.

Key desired outcomes

More renewable energy created. Reduced energy and waste costs. Warmer homes. Better quality of life. Reduction of energy poverty. Lower greenhouse gas emissions.

Objective 4.4: Promote the benefits of active travel and sustainable mobility.

Need for objective: Increasing the rate of active travel and use of sustainable mobility has multiples benefits. These include: reducing greenhouse gas emissions, reducing the cost of living, and people becoming healthier. In 2023, according to the Environment Protection Agency the transport sector was responsible for 21.4% of Ireland's greenhouse gas emissions. The vast majority of this comes from road transport. According to AA Ireland's 2019 survey of motoring finances, the average annual cost of running a family car is €10,386. Such a cost is an impediment to some in engaging with education and obtaining higher paying employment located some distance away. According to a 2015 Healthy Ireland survey, only 32% of the population was considered to be sufficiently active. In addition, six in ten Irish people were found to be either overweight or obese.

Action 4.4.1. Continue to develop more segregated cycle lanes and greenways, improve and construct footpaths as needed, construct/improve pedestrian crossings, improve street lighting and continue the roll out of LED lighting.



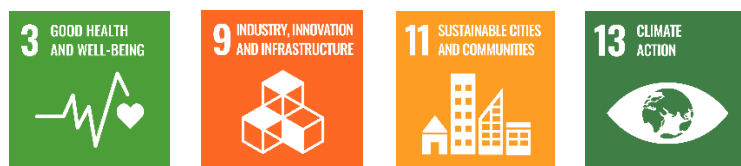
Action 4.4.2. Support the NTA on the design and delivery of rail and bus transport projects.



Action 4.4.3. Facilitate greater levels of walking, cycling and getting the bus to school, and further and higher education locations (e.g. more bike and scooter parking facilities, safe school zones developed, bike trains).



Action 4.4.4. Collaborate with businesses to make it easier for workers to use active and sustainable travel options. Industrial estates are to be made safer and more pleasant to cycle and walk across.



Action 4.4.5. Support the implementation of the EV Charging Strategy for the Dublin Region.



Goal 4 contd.

Key desired outcomes

More people walking, cycling and using public transport. Less congestion. Less air pollution. Greater physical and public health. More community wealth.

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Goal 5: Empower communities through SMART initiatives and skills development to help make their areas better places in which to live, work and visit.

Objective 5.1: Through leading collaboration and engagement across local government, technology providers, academia and citizens, Smart South Dublin will harness the power of digital technologies to create more efficient, sustainable and liveable urban environments and address local and global challenges.

Need for objective: There are multiple benefits to residents and business from adopting Smart approaches. These include: more data driven decision making, better resource use, smarter urban transport networks, upgraded waste disposal, upgraded water supply, more efficient ways to light and heat buildings, safer public spaces, and a more interactive and responsive local authority. Given the high levels of social disadvantage in certain areas of South Dublin, the adoption of Smart approaches will need to be ensure there is digital equity for all.

Action 5.1.1. Build engagement and collaboration across Citizens, Business, Government and Academia to further develop an innovation ecosystem in South Dublin County.



Action 5.1.2. Select a strategic location for the creation of a Smart District in South Dublin County as a living lab where a number of smart district projects will be developed and trialled.



Action 5.1.3. Develop Smart South Dublin projects to support the UN Sustainable Development Goals and particularly Goal 11 where Smart Cities are those that make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. The projects are to consider the practical implications of diversity to ensure inclusion.



Action 5.1.4. Build our capacity to explore and compete for EU funding and partnership opportunities, to bring best in class smart cities research from across Europe to South Dublin.



Action 5.1.5. Develop civic engagement and digital inclusion strategies and initiatives to equip citizens – especially from identified groups – with the requisite digital literacy and skills to avail of the technologies and services.



Goal 5 contd.

Action 5.1.6. Encourage the use of technology to aid community participation in public consultation on issues like the public realm design of regeneration areas.



Action 5.1.7. Promote the use of technology by communities to access sustainable transport, such as car sharing and mobility hubs.



Action 5.1.8. Consistently communicate and inform all stakeholders and citizens (especially from identified groups) throughout all initiatives to promote full and relevant participation in all opportunities.



Key desired outcomes

Improved and broader use of technology. Empowered communities with a strong relationship with the Local Authority and other agencies. More liveable communities. Better quality of life for residents. Better business environment.

Objective 5.2: Empower community and voluntary groups, social enterprises, NGOs and charities with training, mentoring and advice to increase their social and economic impact.

Need for objective: The financial and personnel resources of the local authority and State in general are not finite. Across Ireland, often the most successful communities are those where civic society takes a strong role in the development of their community and collaborate well with the local authority (e.g. Westport, Clonakilty). Such community groups can provide additional services of benefit to residents, agitate for investment, help craft initiatives that better suit the locality, and raise their own funds. Involvement in volunteering and community groups tend to be lower in places with high social disadvantage, such as in certain locations in South Dublin. Accordingly, to realise the potential in South Dublin's civic society, additional support is needed.

Action 5.2.1. Encourage and support the community's participation in the development of the County. Particular attention should be placed on assisting those from identified communities in participating and the community organisations that support these groups.



Goal 5 contd.

Action 5.2.2. Enable and support the PPN member groups to input into and have their voices heard within the formal decision-making structures of the local authority. Particular attention should be placed on supporting organisations representing identified groups to engage in the PPN and have a meaningful impact.



Action 5.2.3. Provide community and voluntary groups, social enterprises, charities and NGOs with mentoring and training in relevant areas (e.g. governance, stakeholder consultation, funding, volunteer management and retention, project management, use of technology) to increase their effectiveness.



Action 5.2.4. Provide assistance to community and voluntary groups, NGOs and charities that wish to merge in order to streamline governance, management and administration practices, and thereby create greater impact.



Action 5.2.5. Identify, support and mentor a network of community champions and leaders to enable them to project manage and achieve the goals of their communities.



Action 5.2.6. Support and empower existing social enterprises. Facilitate the development of innovative social enterprises that satisfy a community need not otherwise being met.



Key desired outcomes

Empowered and informed communities, volunteer groups, NGOs, Social Enterprises and Charities. Better places in which to live, work and visit.

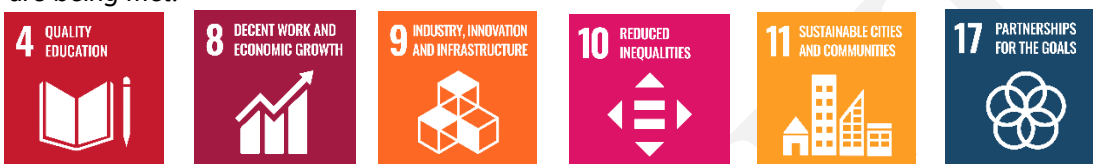
Objective 5.3: To enable a strong, inclusive and resilient economy, supported by enterprise, innovation and skills through the creation of places that can foster enterprise and innovation and attract investment and talent.

Goal 5 contd.

Need for objective: Having a high income is a significant indicator of personal health and overall quality of life. Census 2022 showed that the overall employment level in South Dublin were broadly in line with the national figure. However, within the county there was significant variation, especially as regards the numbers of long-term unemployed. These tended to be concentrated in areas of higher disadvantage.

The global economy is always changing. For example, the emergence of AI is simultaneously expected to make certain jobs redundant while creating new roles. South Dublin needs to react to that change and where possible, take advantage of emerging trends to provide diverse, well-paid employment. To give entrepreneurs and growing businesses the greatest opportunity to succeed, the necessary infrastructure, premises, supports and pipeline of staff need to be put in place.

Action 5.3.1. Support deeper communication between the Local Authority, South Dublin County Partnership, the IDA, Enterprise Ireland, TU Dublin, South Dublin Chamber and local businesses to ensure that – in line with the County Development Plan – the infrastructure, workforce, training and building needs of businesses are being met.



Action 5.3.2. Through greater collaboration between the Local Authority, South Dublin County Partnership, the IDA, Enterprise Ireland, TU Dublin, the Chamber of Commerce and local businesses, develop a hierarchy of sites and premises (e.g. incubation centres, various sizes of food preparation premises) that permit start-ups and established companies to scale up as needed.



Action 5.3.3. Support the provision of food hub/food processing spaces and market spaces for food and craft start-ups.



Action 5.3.4. Continue to carry out actions that improve the attractiveness of town and village centres as vibrant cultural and shopping destinations where people live, work, and come to meet, shop and play (e.g. paint schemes, public realm works, strong active travel connections with surrounding community, retailer training and mentoring, greater assistance with online trading, promotion, events and festivals).



Action 5.3.5. To develop South Dublin as an evening and night-time destination which can offer a sustainable, vibrant, cultural, and diverse experience to citizens and visitors.



Goal 5 contd.

Key desired outcomes

A strong, more diversified and resilient local economy. More employment. Better business environment. Companies find it easier to scale up. A more dynamic evening time offering.

Objective 5.4: That start-ups, entrepreneurs and SMEs take full advantage of the available funding and training opportunities and in turn, the grants and training opportunities are continuously reviewed to ensure they meet the changing needs of the business sector.

Need for objective: During consultation for this report it emerged that it is likely that many businesses do not know about the full range of supports that are available to them (e.g. grants, training, mentoring). There is also the need to ensure that the available supports match the needs of businesses and are as easy as possible to access, within good governance constraints. This will maintain usefulness.

Action 5.4.1. Continue to provide training and grant supports that meet the needs of local SMEs and entrepreneurs (e.g. agile project management, scaling their business, greater adoption of technology, use of AI, green economy and sustainability, equality and non-discrimination).



Action 5.4.2. South Dublin County Council, South Dublin County Partnership and other relevant organisations are to meet regularly to consider how they can adapt their grants and other supports to meet the changing needs of start-ups, entrepreneurs and SMEs in general. Where possible, the overall local grants and supports offering is to be coordinated. Where the ability of organisations in South Dublin is limited by central State control, the relevant Government Dept. is to be informed of the issues so that it may modify the relevant grants or supports programme to better fit the needs of local business.



Key desired outcomes

A more resilient, adaptive and innovative business sector able to win grant support to scale up and/or develop new services and products. Grants and other supports that are modified as needed to better meet the needs of local businesses. More employment.

Goal 6: For society within South Dublin County to be more inclusive, equitable and welcoming of diversity.

Objective 6.1: Support and promote social inclusion within the county.

Need for objective: There is a diverse mix of people living in South Dublin. According to the 2022 Census, South Dublin's population is predominantly Irish (84% Irish nationals). When categorized by place of birth, the majority (79.1%) of South Dublin's population consists of those who were born in Ireland, followed by UK, Poland, and India. Of course, within South Dublin there are certain areas with higher levels of people born outside of Ireland. Aside from nationality, there is a growing number of older people, members of the Traveller Community, and people with additional needs, amongst others. Across the population as a whole, somewhere between 5%-10% are likely to be Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual or Transgender (national estimate). During fieldwork for this plan, issues around racial friction were uncovered. There is wider evidence in voting trends that anti-migrant sentiment is rising. This has been seen as an indication that people are becoming disillusioned with politics. Indeed, there are areas in South Dublin with particularly low voter turnout at general and local elections. In the 2024 local elections, Tallaght South had the lowest voter turnout of any Local Electoral Area in Ireland.

Action 6.1.1. Develop and implement a successor to A More Inclusive County: South Dublin County Council Integration Strategy to cover 2024-2028. Particular focus is to be put on what can be directly done by stakeholders in South Dublin to integrate migrants both in the short and long term.



Action 6.1.2. Provide ongoing integration supports to International Protection Applicants, Programme Refugees and Beneficiaries of Temporary Accommodation to enable them to live independently in the community.



Action 6.1.3. Continue to collaborate with relevant stakeholders to ensure that vulnerable/marginalised members of society can easily navigate public services. The Local Authority will maintain an ongoing commitment to face-to-face service provision.



Action 6.1.4. Advance the implementation of the national LGBT+ Strategies and all other national strategies targeting the identified groups, including: gender, disability, anti-racism and Traveller and Roma.



Action 6.1.5. Implement the South Dublin Age County Friendly Strategy and any subsequent strategies.



Goal 6 contd.

Action 6.1.6. Continue to support the work of Comhairle na nÓg and other youth services in South Dublin. Encourage young people to engage in youth work activities.



Action 6.1.7. Work with the South Dublin Children and Young People's Services Committee to support services that are coordinated, responsive and meet the needs of children, young people and families in South Dublin.



Action 6.1.8. Work with South Dublin Volunteer Centre to promote and support volunteering as a means of social inclusion and integration in the county.



Action 6.1.9. Support social inclusion activities, events and engagement programmes from community groups, sports clubs and other social clubs that encourage participation together by people from a diversity of backgrounds and celebrates cultural diversity.



Action 6.1.10. Provide training and support for those implementing this LECP on internal policies, procedures and practices to ensure no discrimination across the identified groups. In general, provide training to public sector service providers to eliminate discrimination, to address stereotypes that might be held, and to build capacity to promote equality.



Action 6.1.11. Promote diversity as a criterion in grant making and funding applications to ensure involvement of and benefits to people from the identified groups.



Goal 6 contd.

Action 6.1.12. Improve the coordination of existing services and supports to effectively meet the needs of people from the identified groups.



Action 6.1.13. Continue to ensure adequate online and in-person information and advice in relation to entitlements, services, support and activities to enable choice and control over one's life.



Action 6.1.14. To increase voter participation in elections.



Key desired outcomes

More positive interactions between people from different cultural or ethnic backgrounds. A more caring place to live. Higher quality of life. Less loneliness and social isolation. Greater sense of belonging. Higher voter turnout at elections.

Objective 6.2: Increase physical accessibility of South Dublin to all.

Need for objective: There is a growing number of older people and those with additional needs living in South Dublin. To meet their desires and life goals, the physical accessibility of the public realm and buildings they require should be improved. By taking greater part in society, peoples' quality of life will get better, they will have more independence, and a higher level of social integration. Enhanced accessibility also increases the ability of people to take a more part in the economy as both employers/employees and consumers.

Action 6.2.1. Public realm design is to follow best practice in the creation/remodelling of spaces accessible to all, and mindful of the safety of older people and women. Careful consideration will be needed in providing sufficient parking at appropriate locations for older people and those with mobility issues or additional needs. Accessibility to these sites via sustainable transport modes should also be improved where practical.



Action 6.2.2. Where appropriate, continue to increase physical accessibility to public/community buildings and customer facing businesses along universal design principles.



Goal 6 contd.

Action 6.2.3. Within buildings where members of the public access services (e.g. libraries, community centres, sports clubs, medical centres, retailers) support the development – where practical – of management practices and sensory rooms that make these places more welcoming to people with additional needs.



Action 6.2.4. Provide training and funding to community and volunteer groups to encourage their committees and wider activities to become more welcoming of those with additional needs.



Key desired outcomes

Equality of esteem in how residents can move around South Dublin and access the services they need and want. Higher quality of life for those with additional needs. More people using services. More customers in shops. Less loneliness and social isolation. More employment. Greater participation in community and volunteer groups.

