

## **Annual progress report on the Corporate Plan - 2015**

Section 134 (11) of the Local Government Reform Act 2014 requires the preparation of an annual progress report in respect of the Council's Corporate Plan, and for such report to be submitted to the elected Council.

The Corporate Plan was adopted by the Council at its meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> April 2015. The draft 2016 annual service delivery plan will include the 2016 objectives and priorities for each of the Council's services, implementing the corporate goals and objectives, is currently being prepared. Therefore it is proposed to prepare an overview progress report at this time on the corporate goals included in the plan.

### **Theme 1 - Creating an environment for economic growth**

**Corporate Goal 1:** To leverage the Council's enhanced role in economic development and enterprise to promote the economic growth of the County

The Draft County Development Plan supports and encourages economic development through both ensuring sufficient employment lands are zoned within the County and through the provisions of the following Sections of the Plan:

1. Section 1.2.6: Employment Lands
2. Section 1.3: Development and Regeneration
3. Chapter 3 – Enterprise and Employment Strategy
4. Policy SIC1: The Local Economics and Community Plan

### **Local Economic and Community plan**

The Draft Local Economic and Community Plan 2016 – 2021 has been developed and is being proposed for adoption at the County Council meeting scheduled for 14<sup>th</sup> December 2015. Its development involved extensive public consultation. This sets out clear goals and an action plan for economic and community objectives to support local economic growth and community wellbeing.

### **Corporate Goal 2:**

To increase the supply of housing in the County and facilitate the expansion of employment opportunities by the removal of any infrastructure deficits

The Draft County Development Plan supports and facilitates the supply of housing and employment through both ensuring sufficient residential and employment lands are zoned within the County and through the provisions of the following Sections of the Plan:

1. Section 1.2: Core Strategy
2. Section 1.3: Development and Regeneration
3. Section 2.1: Residential Development
4. Chapter 3 – Enterprise and Employment Strategy
5. Appendix 2: Housing Strategy

Continued planning and construction of schemes identified in SUFP. Engagement with landowners and developers in Cherrywood SDZ and Glenamuck/Kilternan ongoing.

***Corporate Goal 3:***

To support the development of strong transport links in the County

The Draft County Development Plan supports and facilitates transport links throughout the County through the provisions of Section 2.2: Sustainable Travel and Transportation.

DLR submission to the NTA Draft Transport Strategy 2016 – 2035. Facilitation of Dublin Bus/Elected Members with proposed Loughlinstown/Dún Laoghaire Bus Services consultation

***Corporate Goal 4:***

To support local business and communities by delivering facilities to better meet parking needs

Three new parking schemes have been introduced in 2015 at the request of local communities and businesses. Also an on-line residents parking permit application has been successfully introduced.

A special County wide Christmas parking promotion has also been introduced to encourage local trade and business for the Christmas shopping period.

***Corporate Plan Goal 5:***

To improve the vitality of towns and villages in the County

The Draft County Development Plan supports and facilitates the improvement of towns and villages within the County through the provisions of Section 1.3: Development and Regeneration, particularly so through Local Area Plans and Section 1.3.6: The Villages of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown.

- The Community Section supported the progression of the Joint Policing Committee and Local Policing Fora with three forums now in place
- Co-ordinated 4 entries in the 2015 Pride of Place with cross departmental support. Cabinteely Tidy Towns were runners up in their category while Cois Cairn Estate Management Forum came first in the best Estate Category.
- Supporting the Tidy Districts Competition and promoting engagement through the Estate Management Programme

***Corporate Plan Goal 6:***

To promote and develop tourism within the County as part of the wider region

The Local Enterprise Office supported and promoted tourism through its management of the Local Tourism Office. Located in County Hall, Dún Laoghaire it handled up to 1000 walk-in queries per month. Its supporting tourism website [www.dlrtourism.ie](http://www.dlrtourism.ie) had 22,000 views between April to October 2015. The Local Enterprise Office also managed the Team of 'DLR Place Ambassadors', and organised tourism networking events and training throughout the year.

**Theme 2 – Driving quality of life for all**

***Corporate Plan Goal 7:***

To provide and manage social housing accommodation including Traveller Specific accommodation

The Draft County Development Plan supports the provision of social housing and traveller accomodation within the County through the provisions of:

1. Section 2.1.3.8 - Policy RES8: Provision of Social Housing
2. Section 2.1.3.11 – Policy RES11: Traveller Accomodation
3. Appendix 2: Housing Strategy

A significant number of Part 8s have been approved by the Council together with financial approval from the Department of Environment and Local Government, which will deliver on our social housing programme. Upgrade works have been carried out to improve the energy efficiency of our housing stock.

***Corporate Plan Goal 8:***

To work towards the goal of achieving an end to long term homelessness and the need to sleep rough in Dublin by 2016

The Dublin Region Homeless Executive which works as a shared service on behalf of the four Dublin local authorities, with Dublin City Council as the lead, continues to work collaboratively with statutory and state funded voluntary services to respond to homelessness in accordance with the Dublin Region Homeless Action Plan 2014 to 2016.

***Corporate Plan Goal 9:***

To minimise the occurrence of flooding throughout the county and to work to achieve the requirements of the Water Framework Directive including bathing water quality

Flood zone maps prepared and incorporated into the Draft County Development Plan. Green Roof Guidance Document incorporated into the Draft County Development Plan. Flood alleviation works have been completed at several locations and a programme of culvert screen upgrading is ongoing.

The Council has been actively involved in implementing the programme of works for the first phase of the Water Framework Directive which draws to a close at

the end of 2015. In addition this year, the Council has been engaged with the EPA regarding the preparation of the plans for phase two and the integration, into the new plan, of the knowledge and experience already gained in the first phase. The second phase will cover the period 2016 to 2021 and will require very active participation by the Council.

***Corporate Plan Goal 10:***

To improve the road network (including pedestrian and cycle networks) in the County for the safe and efficient movement of all road users in a sustainable manner.

The Draft County Development Plan supports the improvement of the road network throughout the County through the provisions of Section 2.2: Sustainable Travel and Transportation

Introduced dlr Road Safety Plan 2016 – 2020. Completed Pottery Rd and Frascati Rd improvement schemes. Delivered schemes such as Ballinteer Road Route Improvement Scheme, New pedestrian / Toucan crossings - Lower Glenageary Road, Stillorgan Park, Nutgrove Avenue and Dundrum Road, Junction Upgrades – Pedestrian connectivity (Countywide) including-Dundrum Road/Milltown Bridge Road, Commons Road/Shanganagh Road, Cross Avenue, Booterstown (School Safety Zone) and New Vale, Shankill (AIP Scheme)

***Corporate Plan Goal 11:***

To continue to provide high quality open space and recreation facilities

The Council purchased Fernhill House and Gardens and are currently producing a Masterplan for its development and future opening to the public. Restored the Otranto Sea Leisure buildings, currently restoring bandstand in Blackrock Park, completion of redevelopment of the People's Park, Dun Laoghaire, assisting in landscaping of various road schemes and village improvement schemes, carrying out the annual landscaping programme, continued maintenance and delivery of high quality sports facilities, enhancing green links within the County, producing a Green Infrastructure Strategy in consultation with other departments, assisting in estates management including provision of outdoor gym, completion of Laurelmere restoration project in Marlay Park and opening of coffee

shop/restaurant opened in Marlay Park and supported the Dublin Mountains Partnership.

***Corporate Plan Goal 12:***

To continue to provide and support a county wide range of events and sporting activities catering to many different interests and abilities

In 2015 the Sports Partnership organised and delivered a wide range of strategic initiatives to increase participation in sport and physical activity in the County in particular to those who are not currently active. These included training workshops and seminars for 700 sports volunteers, targeted participation programmes and events for over 3,000 participants and also worked with nearly 600 people with disabilities to include them in sporting activities. An up to date research report on participation rates in the County was launched and a new website has been created to provide the public with information on the various options available in their local area.

In 2015 the Sports Development office continued to deliver and develop the sports Development Programme, which facilitated 1,200 participants per week. The programmes are run in partnership with the FAI, Leinster Rugby, UCD men's & women's soccer. The Council through the Sports Development Office supported numerous events & local activities through the universal grant scheme (22 applications, 14 successful).

***Corporate Plan Goal 13:***

To continue to manage the Council's Heritage remit and support the County's wider heritage

The seventh Summer of Heritage Programme was carried out in 2015. It continues to increase in popularity and this year in the region of 12,000 people attended 25 event locations over a ten week period. A Spring of Heritage Programme was introduced. A Conservation Plan was produced for Carrickmines Castle. The DLR 1916-2016 Programme featuring nearly 50 events has been co-ordinated by the Heritage Officer. The Council's Heritage Maintenance staff have continued their management and maintenance of the Council's Heritage Properties.

***Corporate Plan Goal 14:***

To develop and deliver a library, arts and cultural service which meets the information, learning and cultural needs of the community

### The Library Service

- Commenced Implementation of the Public Library National Strategy 2013-2017 'Opportunities for All'
- Prepared Library Development Plan 2015-2019 and presented it to SPC in June; the process involved Public & Staff Consultation – Summer 2015, Draft Plan – October 2015, Review Draft with SPC – December 2015 and due to publish – early in 2016
- Delivered a Culture Strategy for the LexIcon
  - The programming policy for the municipal gallery was completed and the gallery has a series of exhibitions booked until Feb 2018.
  - Six exhibitions were successfully delivered in 2015 with strong visitor numbers and excellent learning programmes.
- The programme for the Studio has been project based in 2015, a strategy whereby both Libraries and Arts trialled a programme within broad themes of Culture, Education and Popular Culture with a view to developing a clear culture strategy based on a greater awareness of audience need and local capacity in Q1 2016.
- Continued to build a rich and relevant library collection that reflects the needs and interests of all members of the community. dlr Libraries continued to meet the needs of customers during 2015. Issues are strong and we should reach the target of 1.4 million items issued by year end. The Collection Development Policy has been revised. The introduction of the national Library Management System has been challenging. dlr Libraries also participated in the national e-resource tender.

### ***Corporate Plan Goal 15:***

To promote a clean and healthy environment

The Litter Management Plan 2015 – 2017 was adopted by Council on 12<sup>th</sup> October last. Its aims are:

1. To prevent and control litter pollution in the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council area;
2. To eliminate litter black-spots;
3. To develop education & awareness programmes in association with

schools/colleges/ communities;

4. To ensure rigorous enforcement mechanisms of the Act and Bye-Laws are effective.

- **Solar Compactor Belly Bins:** The litter bin stock was reduced from slightly over 500 litter bins to 421 solar powered compacting litter bins, however, the capacity of the system has increased from approximately 45,000 litres to over 250,000 litres. Using the web-based application to monitor real-time levels of waste in the new units, the number of litter bins visited during a working day has been reduced by over 85%. This upgrade of the litter bins throughout the county has resulted in a reduction of 75% in fleet costs and 60% in staff numbers
- The National Litter Pollution Monitoring System which measures local authority performance in litter pollution prevention shows a big improvement on the 2013 figures with litter pollution dropping overall in Dun Laoghaire Rathdown by 37.5% in 2014;
- IBAL (Irish Business against Litter) carry out a litter pollution survey on Dun Laoghaire and its environs annually. It achieved 14<sup>th</sup> place nationally in 2014 and in 2015 was awarded 8<sup>th</sup> place nationally.
- Dog foul awareness devices deployed at Seapoint walk, Killiney Hill, Marlay Park and Cabinteely Park – 67% decrease in dog fouling across these areas
- 7 Gateway staff deployed across towns and villages to address litter and environmental issues.

#### ***Corporate Plan Goal 16:***

To support community engagement and participation including volunteerism and active citizenship

The preparation of the Draft County Development Plan, any Local Area Plan and indeed Planning Applications and Part 8's all require public participation.

The Draft County Development Plan process involved:

- Public notices in both national and local press and online.
- A number of public open days at pre-draft stage, draft and amendment stage.
- Public displays in Council buildings and Libraries.
- Use of the Council website – consultation hub for the submission of observations.

The Dún Laoghaire Rathdown Public Participation Network (DLR PPN) is now established and has 190 organisations registered as members.

The DLRPPN organised the election of 31 representatives from its membership to sit on 8 different council committees. Including 6 SPC's, LCDC and the Joint Policing Committee.

The DLR PPN held three plenary meetings of its members in 2015. The recruitment of a fulltime resource worker for the PPN and the development of annual work plan are currently under development. The DLR PPN was formally launched by Ms Sabina Higgins on December 2<sup>nd</sup> 2015.

In 2015 DLRCC was the lead Partner in an EU project under the URBACT II programme. This project called "Placemaking four Cities" looked at the process of involving local people in the planning, design and animation of open public spaces. Our city partners in this project were Pori, (Finland) Albacete, (Spain) Eger, (Hungary).

In Dún Laoghaire Rathdown this project focused on the Ballybrack area of the county. Working with local residents the project explored what was possible on the public spaces and how residents could be active.

DLRCC is represented on the Board of the Dún Laoghaire Rathdown Volunteer Centre, which provides a range of services and supports to both volunteers and organisations seeking volunteers.

## **Theme 3 – Transforming how we work**

### ***Corporate Plan Goal 17:***

To achieve international best practice in Corporate Governance, Risk Management, financial management and audit systems

Benchmarking and review of governance, risk and audit will continue, in order to ensure continuous improvements.

***Corporate Plan Goal 18:***

To enhance local democracy by providing support to Councillors in their policy making and representational role

Ongoing and focussed support and information and assistance will be provided to Councillors and SPCs to assist in the policy roles.

***Corporate Plan Goal 19:***

To ensure the Council has a motivated and high performing staff with the skills and flexibility which enables them to deliver our corporate goals and objectives

Continuing and embedding the performance management development system, together with a targeted training and development programme will ensure a motivated and skilled workforce.

***Corporate Plan Goal 20:***

To have a customer centric approach to the delivery of excellent services and supports

The Council will be implementing a new customer services centre, to deal with all modes of customer enquiries.

***Corporate Plan Goal 21:***

To drive the 'digital first' agenda

A project has commenced to develop a new corporate website at [www.dlrcoco.ie](http://www.dlrcoco.ie), which will serve as a platform for new and enhanced online services.

***Corporate Plan Goal 22:***

To use all channels of communications to ensure effective and transparent communication and feedback with stakeholders

Corporate Services and the Communications Office will prepare a communications action plan to improve all communications channels.

***Corporate Plan Goal 23:***

To have an Occupational Health and Safety Management System accredited to OHAS 18001:2007 standard

It is intended to roll out the management system across all departments during 2016, with a view to seeking accreditation in 2017.