



**South Dublin  
Chamber**  
Advancing business together

# **Local Property Tax**

Submission on behalf of South Dublin Chamber

30<sup>th</sup> June 2025

South Dublin Chamber as the business representative body for South Dublin County believes it is important to increase our Local Property Tax (LPT). Local property tax can play a vital role in the further development of our county, and we outline below some of the ways we see this can happen.

**1. Increased Revenue for Local Services** Raising the LPT provides more funding for South Dublin County Council, which can be invested in:

- Public housing maintenance and development
- Parks, recreation areas, and green spaces (e.g., Tymon Park, Dodder Valley)
- Local road and footpath repairs
- Community and youth services
- Waste management and street cleaning
- Library services and cultural programs

## **2. Less Reliance on Central Government Grants**

With higher LPT revenue:

- The council becomes more financially autonomous
- There's more flexibility in tailoring services to local needs without waiting for national funding decisions
- It supports fiscal decentralization, a key goal in strengthening local governance

## **3. More Equitable Local Investment**

South Dublin has a relatively high property value base, meaning:

- Even modest LPT increases can raise substantial funds
- The burden is more progressive, especially with exemptions for lower-income households
- Funds can be used to address inequality—e.g., more social housing or improved public services in disadvantaged areas.

## **4. Climate and Infrastructure Improvements**

Higher LPT can fund:

- Active travel infrastructure (cycling lanes, footpaths)
- Energy retrofitting programs for local authority housing
- Flood mitigation projects (important near Dodder/Liffey catchments)
- Public transport link upgrades (supporting Bus Connects, LUAS expansion)

## **5. Enhanced Local Planning Capacity**

South Dublin is under pressure from:

- Rapid population growth (e.g., Lucan, Adamstown)
- Demand for housing and schools
- Development pressure on greenbelt areas

Increased LPT allows the council to:

- Hire more planners, engineers, and housing officers
- Deliver faster and better planning and zoning services
- Implement Local Area Plans (LAPs) and the County Development Plan more effectively

## **6. Better Service for a Growing Population**

As areas like Citywest, Clondalkin, and Tallaght expand, so too does demand for:

- Local policing supports (joint initiatives)
- Youth and sports facilities
- Public health and wellness amenities

LPT increases help the council meet these growing demands without cutting other services.

## **7. Long-Term Fiscal Sustainability**

Over-reliance on national funds makes councils vulnerable to central cuts. LPT:

- Is predictable and stable
- Grows with property values
- Encourages long-term financial planning