

2018

# Report on Review of Community Facilities in Dundrum Area

To:

Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County  
Council

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NEXUS

Nexus Research Cooperative  
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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### CONTEXT

Dún Laoghaire- Rathdown County Council commissioned this study in order to review the community facilities available within a specific catchment area that is bounded by UCD, Milltown, Churchtown and Dundrum. The study prepares a profile and analysis of community need and then makes recommendations in relation to the provision of community facilities for the area.

In its current County Development Plan, Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council flags its “long established and ongoing commitment to the delivery of additional social and community infrastructure throughout the County”. In order to be as informed as possible about any such infrastructural requirements, the Council is constantly working to understand the needs of the various areas, estates and communities within its remit. Studies such as this are thus commissioned to allow the Council to make an assessment as to whether certain communities have access to the range of community facilities that will support their current and future requirements.

The objectives of this study were to map and assess the range of community services and facilities available currently within this area, while also profiling the needs, characteristics and future requirements of the people living within the catchment area. The local policy context was also to be analysed, including a focus on current developments and local area planning. A further objective of the study was to examine options and models for addressing potential need for the community living in the catchment area.

This report summary follows this logic, by presenting an overview of the community and potential population growth, the range of community facilities within the locality, an assessment of community need using the available data and how such need can be best accommodated.

### KEY CHARACTERISTICS OF THE COMMUNITY

The catchment area covers a quite mixed and diverse area. Across the five adjoining electoral divisions and within them, there are differences in the social mix. The population has remained at a stable and steady level of about 10000 people over the last 15 years. The age profile of the area is similar to that of the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County, with both a large youth population, as well as a sizeable number of older retired people.

The housing stock has been built up over the last 100 years, with very little new housing being developed since 2011. Some 70% are owned outright or with a mortgage, while 27% are in the rental sector. Proximity to UCD means that some of the catchment area has large numbers of students in rental properties.

Most households renting from the local authority are also based in three housing estates, where originally all houses were developed by the local authority. According to the Pobal HP Deprivation Indices, these estates are areas of disadvantage (marginally below average), representing up to 20% of the total population of the catchment area. Here, there are much higher levels of one parent families, with significantly higher levels of unemployment and lower levels of educational

qualifications. There are also larger numbers of younger children in these areas. These three areas are considered Target Areas within the current Southside Partnership Strategy.

Across the catchment area, levels of unemployment have dropped from 9% in 2011 to 6% in the 2016 Census. The numbers of retired people in the area has increased to 16.5%. Levels of educational achievement are very high. Although as well as having large numbers of people who have progressed far within the education system, there are also areas where many people have ceased their education without any qualifications. The profile section of the report presents a detailed view of the overall community, highlighting county and national level trends.

## **NEW DEVELOPMENTS AND LOCAL PLANS**

The delivery of all planned developments within the area will see an increase in the number of households from 3857 to over 5000, with a corresponding increase in the population of potentially up to 3000 people. With the completion of these new developments, the overall population of the area will see an increase to almost 13500.

There is further potential for other developments to enter the planning process in the short to medium term in relation to Phase II of the Dundrum Town Centre and the UCD Masterplan. The potential construction of up to 1,500 new homes on the site of the Central Mental Hospital, as identified by the Government's Land Development Agency, will add considerably to the population of the area.

The catchment area does not correspond to any specific local planning boundaries. As well as spanning the two local electoral areas of Dundrum and Stillorgan, the catchment area falls within the remit of an extant and a proposed Local Area Plan, namely those of Goatstown and Dundrum. A larger part of the catchment area is not covered by any dedicated plan.

While these plans do not make specific reference to the need for new community facilities, the County Development Plan requires future developments in the Dundrum Town Centre to include non-retail uses and functions, including "employment, restaurant, leisure, entertainment, cultural, community and civic uses". Looking beyond specific references to the catchment area, the more general strategy documents for the county are relevant in terms of their general focus on and vision for the wider community, as well as in relation to their thematic concerns regarding promoting increased levels of social inclusion and civic engagement.

As new facilities and services are planned for the area, the forthcoming consultation process in relation to the development of the new Local Area Plan for Dundrum offers an opportunity for an informed analysis of need within the catchment area community.

## **COMMUNITY FACILITIES**

A detailed consultation process with local facilities and groups was undertaken to inform the study, supported by a research steering group. Section 3 of the report presents detailed analysis of each facility and its user groups. All local community facilities are mapped from a central point within the catchment area out to a radius of over four kilometres, assessing factors such as transport options, distance and accessibility.

This wide range of facilities are all offering various services and programmes to their communities. These are described in detail within the report. While many facilities are for the most part focused on their own specific catchment area, e.g. in the Kilcross or Belarmine Community Centres, the local community makes up the participants in the activities of the centre, similarly in Hillview and Balally, all services and programmes detailed in the mapping work are open and available to all members of the catchment area.

Through the consultation process representatives from the groups and organisations highlighted the importance of having access to the following locally provided services:

- **Access to local meeting space** that is low cost or free to community groups, accessible to all user groups including people with a disability and older people, and whose availability is prioritised for local community groups and residents associations.
- **Direct provision of information** to community members on a regular face to face basis, where this person would be available to provide information with regard to all aspects of their community life, such as information regarding back to education grants, signposting or referrals to other services, such as MABS or CIC.
- **Access to classes and group activities** in all facilities, including subsidised low cost classes and groups. The current range of classes and groups are connected to the local demand, with focus on mother and baby groups, pilates/yoga classes and bridge classes.
- **Active provision of volunteering opportunities** and the relevant supports to volunteers within a local community facility to bring community members together to not just participate within the activities organised within the centre, but also to look to how they may become active members of their community.
- **Access to practical supports** (such as photocopying, printing, IT type assistance as well as CV preparation, etc.) where a staff member (or local volunteer from the community) is on hand to be able to spend the requisite time with a community member
- **Access to community-based services** such as childcare, after school and homework clubs, targeted youth activities, home help and active age programmes, as well as a range of other family supports.

Many of the community facilities described are providing some or all of these range of community services to all members of the wider community. According to the stakeholders, these services are often targeted at their local communities and catchment areas.

Challenges associated with accessing these services in some facilities are linked to distance, especially if any members of the user groups have mobility issues, lack private transport options or are unable to manage public transport due to age, childcare commitments or disability. Other challenges identified by stakeholders are associated with oversubscribed groups, some meetings spaces being unavailable or unaffordable. While other services such as dedicated youth work programmes are available in the wider area, targeted programmes for the catchment area could be added where resources are available.

## ASSESSMENT OF CURRENT AND FUTURE NEED

Sections 3 and 4 of the report examine evidence regarding the nature and extent of use by groups within the community of the local spaces and facilities. As stated above, this highlights how each facility is understandably focused either on delivering services to its own community members or on its own long term viability by ensuring that its tenants and working partners are covering their overheads and costs. Within this context of a lack of locally co-ordinated network that can respond specifically to the needs of the catchment area, the report seeks to assess current and future need within the catchment area with regard to the data available. The specific area that covered by the study is within the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County and is bounded by UCD, Milltown, Churchtown and Dundrum. It has a population of 10,372 people.

This assessment does not serve as a prescriptive overview of needs of each target group within the catchment area; this could only be achieved by a focused planning exercise in relation to these target groups, whether living within the areas of disadvantage or affluence. However, the report uses the Census 2016 data to extrapolate the range and extent of needs that are associated with the numbers of people in each category. This interrogation of the data can be seen as a starting point for future needs analyses.

The following examples highlight how the delivery of local community based services and facilities could be augmented to cater for target group needs, while accepting that some groups may be accessing services through their local facilities.

- **People who are unemployed** (some 1450 people within the catchment area according to Census 2016 data) can access a range of low cost classes within the resource centres, however these are generally not labour market focused. Increased access to community based jobs clubs, support with CV preparation and interview skills would improve labour market outcomes for unemployed people.
- **One-parent family households** often experience the most deprivation in Ireland. One parent families (336 households with 486 children) are clustered within the catchment area in three specific areas. The provision of parenting supports, as well as education, training and employment assistance are important functions for a community facility in meeting the needs of one parent households. The local resource centre provides family support services, but there are waiting lists associated with many of these parenting programmes and initiatives targeting children and young people.
- **Older people aged over 70** (some 1145 people) can attend the various groups or classes that are provided in the local centres and library, including Active Ageing Groups. The resource centres offer opportunities for participation in some active age groups, but the Rosemount centre has poor accessibility for anyone with mobility issues. Access to increased local volunteering opportunities for older people would allow for enhanced social support networks, increased social status, and reinforced knowledge and skills. Volunteering also provides a role identity and sense of purpose for those retired from paid work.
- There are almost 1000 **young people** between the ages of 10 and 18 years. These young people may be involved in some of the local sports clubs that are for the most part based outside the catchment area in Dundrum, Ballinteer, Kilmacud or Ballyboden. Increased access to targeted youth work initiatives, such as youth diversion programmes and activities, for these young

people in their catchment area or surrounding area would offer greater levels of engagement and lead to better outcomes. There are youth programmes provided outside the catchment area serving the wider area, for instance those provided at Loreto and Nutgrove.

- There are large numbers of **young children aged up to 10** (some 1264 children). Some may require access to early childhood care, as well as crèche and pre-school places. Many of the pre-school services in the area are operating at full capacity. The costs of these places are also very high. A community- based crèche facility that operates on a not-for-profit basis would be welcomed by families with young children throughout the community. Increased availability of community playgrounds would improve quality of life for all families with young children within the catchment area.
- The catchment area has a large number of active **residents' associations and groups** that form a core part of the local community infrastructure. These groups and their membership represent the most significant aspect of dedicated community development activity within the catchment area. A key challenge for these groups is the lack of dedicated, available and appropriate meeting space within their locality. For residents' groups or campaign groups, the options for their regular meetings involve meeting in one of the committee member's houses or in a local pub or restaurant. For any larger public meeting, where speakers are to be invited or a question and answer session is planned, for the groups to access a larger space, their options are limited to one of the parish halls. There is a cost involved in making such a booking and given that these parish halls tend to already have regular weekly activities planned, it is often quite challenging to secure a booking for the time that is most appropriate. The cost of making a reservation in these meeting spaces can be seen as prohibitive for a community group that has no funding sources.

## ADDRESSING COMMUNITY NEED

According to interviews with the local stakeholders, including the managers and administrators of all community facilities, the lack of capacity is a factor affecting their ability to plan new services in their centres. These interviewees had lengthy experience of designing, delivering, managing as well as reviewing and evaluating a wide range of community based activities. They were used to working directly with members of the catchment area itself, as well as members of the wider area.

Through the consultation phase, these stakeholders presented their feedback, as well as local evidence to indicate that there is not adequate space within the current community facilities in their area to meet the demand for services that continues to emerge from user groups named above. While the resource and parish centres can provide some support to new initiatives, classes, groups or programmes, there are already competing demands on their space and their capacity to allow for delivery of their current set of activities and by implication an expansion of these activities.

The pressures to accommodate current demands are presenting challenges on the existing spaces, as well as on the resources available to manage these facilities. Local stakeholders indicated that further pressures will be forthcoming into the future, particularly as developments are completed within the area.

## WHAT TYPE OF NEW SPACE AND MODEL IS REQUIRED?

Looking into the future, to meet the clear and anticipated demand, a new community facility can be structured according to a shared set of spaces, community oriented for the purposes of meetings, classes or groups, addressing the following functions:

- Access to meeting spaces;
- Provision of information;
- Access to classes and to group-based activities;
- Promotion of volunteering opportunities;
- Provision of practical supports;
- Access to community based services;
- Provision of targeted youth programmes;
- Space for administration and facility management;
- Kitchen/catering facility;

An open and welcoming centre with information stalls and a staffed reception area would allow community members to engage with their facility and proceed to either link in with services that may relate to their specific requirements, e.g. meetings for the Men's Shed, access to a youth club or teenage health programme or disability support group. The community member could also become actively involved within the centre as a volunteer within any number of programmes, groups or classes. An outdoor area with playground facilities would allow for the large number of families with young children to engage with the centre.

The work of both an anchor tenant organisations and community management team would ensure that the community facility would be in constant use, by day and by night. For instance, youth club activities and other programmes could be run at the same time as residents' association meetings, as well as an active age group session.

Community centres operated through the ownership and oversight of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council have a proven track record in the area of delivering a sustainable model of community development. As per its own current plan for the period to 2022, the Council is committed to the delivery of additional social and community infrastructure, ensuring a balanced and equitable provision of social and community facilities, responsive to the identified needs of local communities. This commitment is based on "developing and supporting sustainable neighbourhoods into the future through the commensurate and proper integration of housing with quality social and community infrastructure" and "ensuring a balanced and equitable provision of social and community facilities throughout the County - including housing for all, day care facilities for all, community centres and sports facilities."<sup>1</sup>

A key success factor in this model of community development relates to the strong management and oversight functions carried out by local community organisations. This is evident in the many community centres that were consulted through this study. The rent paid by anchor tenants provided a sustainable income flow to cover all overheads and to contribute to the ongoing management costs. These tenants are community-based organisations, including a disability NGO,

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<sup>1</sup> County Development Plan 2016 - 2022

childcare providers, a drug and alcohol support projects and local youth services projects. Local community organisations including residents' associations also play an important role in ensuring that the community centres are working directly with their catchment areas. This model allows for a subsidisation of costs to service providers (e.g. yoga instructors, fitness class organisers, etc.) who are looking to operate from the Centre on a weekly or monthly basis.

The community infrastructure that works with the catchment area under study is currently under pressure and will find it challenging to meet the needs of new households and user groups that will come to live in the new residential developments in the coming years. A new community facility would represent an important step forward for the community, allowing for the evident community needs to be addressed and channelled in a supportive community development environment. Vulnerable groups in the community, from the young to the old, as well as people with a disability, would be able to find a space where they can engage positively.

## NEXT STEPS

The County Development is clear on the principles of development of a new facility:

- That a clear need is evident
- That it will be co-ordinated in relation to local neighbourhood centres
- That it is accessible with strong public transport links
- That it is run by local management bodies
- That all sustainability factors are taken into account, i.e. walking distance, close to areas of demand, where services are at capacity

The evidence emerging from Census and data from other key organisations in the county highlights that there are a range of user groups within the catchment area that need further supports, in a targeted manner. Feedback from all stakeholders points to local facilities with limited capacity. With the community increasing in size, especially given the 'Land Development Agency's identification of a potential 1500 new homes on the site of the Central Mental Hospital, this capacity will not be able to meet future demand. Accommodating this evident need will clearly require a requisite increase in community infrastructure to be provided locally.

The presence and positioning of neighbourhood centre zoning blocks within the catchment area are also important considerations. In the catchment area, these sites are typically where shops or public houses are located. While for the most part, these sites are privately held, the zoning objective may permit the location of a civic amenity or community or enterprise facility. These neighbourhood centres are considered an essential and sustainable amenity for residential areas. While the County Development Plan does not necessarily outline how such sites would be developed, it considers that they should be maintained and strengthened where necessary.

There are strong community-based organisations within the area that will support the development of a new facility and ensure its sustainability. These groups and organisations working together can deliver on a facility management model that the Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council has championed in other surrounding areas. There are high levels of expertise and experience that can be shared from these facilities, especially from the management team in Sandymount. The Community Centre / Facility Usage Policy lays out a blueprint for the functions and operation of such a facility.

Analysis of community facility engagement levels indicates that the development of a new facility within the catchment area will not have a negative bearing on other local community centres and their sustainability. A new community facility would represent an important step forward for the community, allowing for the specified current and future needs to be addressed and channelled in a supportive community development environment. Vulnerable groups in the community, from the young to the old, as well as people with a disability, would be able to find a space where they can engage.

The community centres and facilities that currently work with the community from the catchment area have a number of challenges. The distance for many user groups makes access problematic. For older people with mobility issues, parents with young families, people with a disability, young people seeking to engage with targeted youth programmes, travel to and from an appropriate service can act as a barrier. For many of the facilities in the immediate vicinity of the catchment area, there are further challenges to do with accessibility, over-subscription, the range of programmes, user groups being targeted, as well as cost.

The local County Development planning framework focuses on principles of accessibility and sustainability as key determinants in understanding how future community development should be facilitated. The ongoing work in shaping Local Area Plans represents a key opportunity to address and respond to the community needs of the catchment area. Engagement with the newly formed Land Development Agency will also be important in addressing future need.

## 1. INTRODUCTION AND RATIONALE

Dún Laoghaire- Rathdown County Council commissioned this study in order to review the community facilities available within a specific catchment area that is bounded by UCD, Milltown, Churchtown and Dundrum. The study prepares an analysis of community need and then makes recommendations in relation to the provision of community facilities for the area.

### 1.1 CONTEXT FOR THE STUDY

In its current County Development Plan, Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council flags its “long established and ongoing commitment to the delivery of additional social and community infrastructure throughout the County”. In order to be as informed as possible about any such infrastructural requirements, the Council is constantly working to understand the needs of the various areas, estates and communities within its remit. Studies such as this are thus commissioned to allow the Council to make an assessment as to whether certain communities have access to the range of community facilities that will support their current and future requirements.

This County Development Plan and Local Economic and Community Plan set out, for the 2016-2021 period, the objectives and actions needed to promote and support the economic development and the local and community development of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown. These are some of the important points that the Council makes when it refers to its role in supporting community facilities.

Key objectives of its Community Strategy are linked to “developing and supporting sustainable neighbourhoods into the future through the commensurate and proper integration of housing with quality social and community infrastructure” and “ensuring a balanced and equitable provision of social and community facilities throughout the County - including housing for all, day care facilities for all, community centres and sports facilities.”<sup>2</sup>

The Plan sets out the functions of its community facilities to foster a sense of community; deliver quality services and facilities; respond to the identified needs of local communities; and enhance and develop the ‘quality of life’ for all residents and community members. In seeking to secure a balanced social, community and cultural infrastructure in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown, the County Development Plan will work to “facilitate the provision of accessible facilities and services through a participatory community development process that is responsive to the identified needs of the local community.”<sup>3</sup>

Community facilities provide opportunities for social interaction, activities, recreation, events, programmes, interest based courses and meeting spaces that benefit the local community. In every Local Authority area, community facilities play a hugely significant role in local communities where members can come together as a group to enjoy group activities, social support, public information and many other purposes that will with enrich the lives of citizens.

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<sup>2</sup> County Development Plan 2016 - 2022

<sup>3</sup> ibid

The provision of such places is considered necessary for the effective operation of community life. The provision of community facilities, such as community centres and meeting places, contribute positively to the support and development of communities. These facilities are intended to complement and support the work of the statutory services, for instance through the provision of community education classes and courses that can then lead community members into the more formalised education and training system, as provided by the Education and Training Boards.

There are a range of different community facilities in the area that the study is examining, some under the ownership of the Council and others owned by parish organisations or funded by state agencies to support disadvantaged areas. This mix of community facilities is not co-ordinated by any overarching body, so the study collects evidence about the work of each facility to build a full picture of how these centres and facilities are working to provide services across the catchment area.

The study also identifies and assesses the needs of the catchment area community, presenting the relevant data from Census 2016 to document a profile of the area. Where relevant, this data is presented visually using GIS tools to provide more detailed insight into the social and economic make-up of the catchment area. Future development plans for the area are considered in terms of how they may impact on these needs of the local community.

Through this examination of the catchment area community need and the mapping of community facilities and services that serve this area, the study goes on to analyse whether this need is currently being addressed by community facilities.

Using the Council's understanding of the role of community facilities as vibrant hubs that host activities and promote active and healthy citizenship across all ages and foster an enriched community identity, this analysis makes recommendations as to whether this level of community infrastructure is present in the community.

## 1.2 PROFILING THE COMMUNITY OF THE CATCHMENT AREA (SECTION 2)

This study assesses community needs in relation to age and socio-economic profile. Using the 2016 census data, local plans and other research materials, the evidence is examined and analysed as follows in Section 2:

Age	Numbers	Proportion	Priority Location	Specific challenges	Future need
Children					
Young people					
Students (aged 19-24)					
Adults (Men)					
Adults (Women)					
Older Adults					

The needs of the community are assessed in relation to different user groups, including the following:

Socio-economic profile	Numbers	Proportion	Priority Location	Specific challenges	Future need
People with a disability					
Unemployed people					
People at work					
One parent families					
Retired people					
Older people					
Third level students					
Married couples with children					

Local development plans are also assessed to examine how any new residential commitments may affect the community.

Development plans	New units	Numbers of new residents	Location	Future challenges for the community
Residential confirmed				
Residential in planning				
Possible future plans				

Local statutory plans are also examined to understand how the area and residents may be affected:

Local Area Plans	Number of people from Catchment Area affected	Impact of plan on those living in area	Future community needs arising from plan
Goatstown LAP			
Proposed Dundrum LAP			

### 1.3 COMMUNITY FACILITIES IN THE AREA (SECTION 3)

The following framework will then be used to examine the level and extent of activities being provided within local community facilities. Each centre has been surveyed to understand how user groups within the community have been making use of the facilities. Accessibility, availability and cost are key factors that are examined in relation to the take up of services being provided.

Functions of Community Centre	Description
Meeting Space	Provision of meeting spaces where community members and groups can come together and organise activities.
Provision of Information	Providers of information, signposting and referral, where community members can receive advice and direction.
Access to classes	Spaces of lifelong learning, where education and training classes are delivered
Access to group-based activities	Open for different user groups to find supports, such as for older people, parents, people with a disability
Volunteering opportunities	Volunteer-oriented allowing for people to get involved in the life of their community- this involves identifying and supporting these volunteers
Practical supports	Practical in terms of available for day to day type supports such as IT, photocopying, etc.
Community based services	Spaces where community services are provided, such as childcare and crèche facilities, afterschool programmes, youth services and counselling

Each facility is examined and mapped in relation to its proximity to the catchment area. All activities that are delivered are presented in relation to user groups and participation levels.

## 1.4 ASSESSMENT OF POTENTIAL COMMUNITY NEED AND PROVISION LEVELS (SECTION 4)

The final section of the study links the **current** delivery of community services and facilities to current needs as evidenced from Census and any other local plans/research. This will also look to who are the current user groups of these facilities. Evidence regarding the nature of current unmet needs/gaps in community services will be detailed.

The core functions of the community facilities are analysed and the evidence of whether these facilities are meeting the needs of the community is assessed. The following framework is used to summarise the evidence and analysis:

Functions of Community Centre	User groups	Available (space)	Accessible (disability)	Cost	Proximity (public transport)
Meeting Space					
Provision of Information					
Access to classes					
Access to group-based activities					
Volunteering opportunities					
Practical supports					
Community based services					

This will allow for a SWOT analysis to be presented of the current level of community facilities and an examination as to whether there are gaps in the current provision of these functions

This section will then look to how evidence of **potential future** need can be catered for within the current levels of community facilities, addressing the following questions:

- How could potential future need be accommodated within the current level of service provision?
- What level of extra capacity is required and for what purposes and user groups- size and scope?
- How would the Council centre model operate and how could governance and management considerations be dealt with?
- What location could be used for any such facility?

The use of the centre must then be linked to its user or target groups, availability and accessibility concerns, whether there are cost barriers and the extent to which people from the community can get there. A focus on sustainability with regard to the demand for any new facility into the future will be analysed, as well as possible impact on other facilities.

## 1.5 METHODOLOGY FOR STUDY

A Research Subgroup was established, comprising of representatives from the relevant local stakeholders. This subgroup was tasked with providing input, guidance and assistance over the course of the project, including identifying local groups and representatives to be consulted.

The research process then involved the implementation of the following agreed tasks:

- Review of local plans and strategies (highlighting priorities and objectives for area)
- Development of local demographic profile
- Mapping of services, organisations and community groups in catchment area
- Survey of local services and facilities (assessing levels of awareness, engagement and usage)
- Assessment of future community need (stakeholder focus groups and interviews)

Further feedback was gathered about usage of services and extent to which current need is being met (examining extent of waiting lists etc.) through the interview phase. These interviewees included representatives from four local residents' groups, four FRCs, local youth services, two parish centres, community groups, council run centres, including managers, supervisors, caretakers, development workers, committee members and administrators representing these local community facilities. For some, they were relatively new to the area and had new ideas about how to respond to the needs that were facing their group or their part of the community. Many were volunteers, community activists, as well as active members of local groups.

The reporting phase was delayed in order to produce a series of dedicated maps that would focus on the catchment area boundaries.

## 2 PROFILE OF THE AREA- EVIDENCE AND ANALYSIS

Section 1 presents a profile of the catchment area that is being studied. Using the most up to date Census information, the main characteristics of the population and the physical environment are presented. In order to situate the catchment area within its local context, some profile information with regard to Dún Laoghaire- Rathdown County Council area is provided<sup>4</sup>.

Future residential development plans for the area are also considered, as is evidence from any local statutory plans regarding future changes to the area. Analysis of this data is made in relation to how future need may evolve in terms of population trends, as well as implications for different user groups. A summary section draws together these profiling steps.

### 2.1 DEFINING AND MAPPING THE CATCHMENT AREA

The specific catchment area that this study is not a self-contained area included in any local, county or regional plans. In fact sections of the catchment area are included within the boundaries of one Local Area Plan, one proposed Local Area Plan and in none. The catchment area includes five electoral areas, namely:

- Churchtown-Woodlawn
- Clonskeagh-Farranboley
- Clonskeagh-Milltown
- Clonskeagh-Windy Arbour
- Dundrum-Taney

This area is bounded by Taney Road to the south and Churchtown Road to the west, Clonskeagh Road to the east and the river Dodder and boundary of the Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County to the north. The area comprises almost 4,000 households, including those in housing estates of Taney, Roebuck, Rosemount, Mount Carmel, Farranboley, Mulvey and Columbanus.

The catchment area is located within Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County. The County has a population of 218,218 which increased by 11,751 (5.7%) since 2011, well above the national average (3.7%), with almost a quarter of the population aged under 18. The number of residents aged 65 and older in the county is 34,669 (15.9%) compared to 13.4% and 12% respectively, national and in Dublin, clearly indicating Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown's older profile.

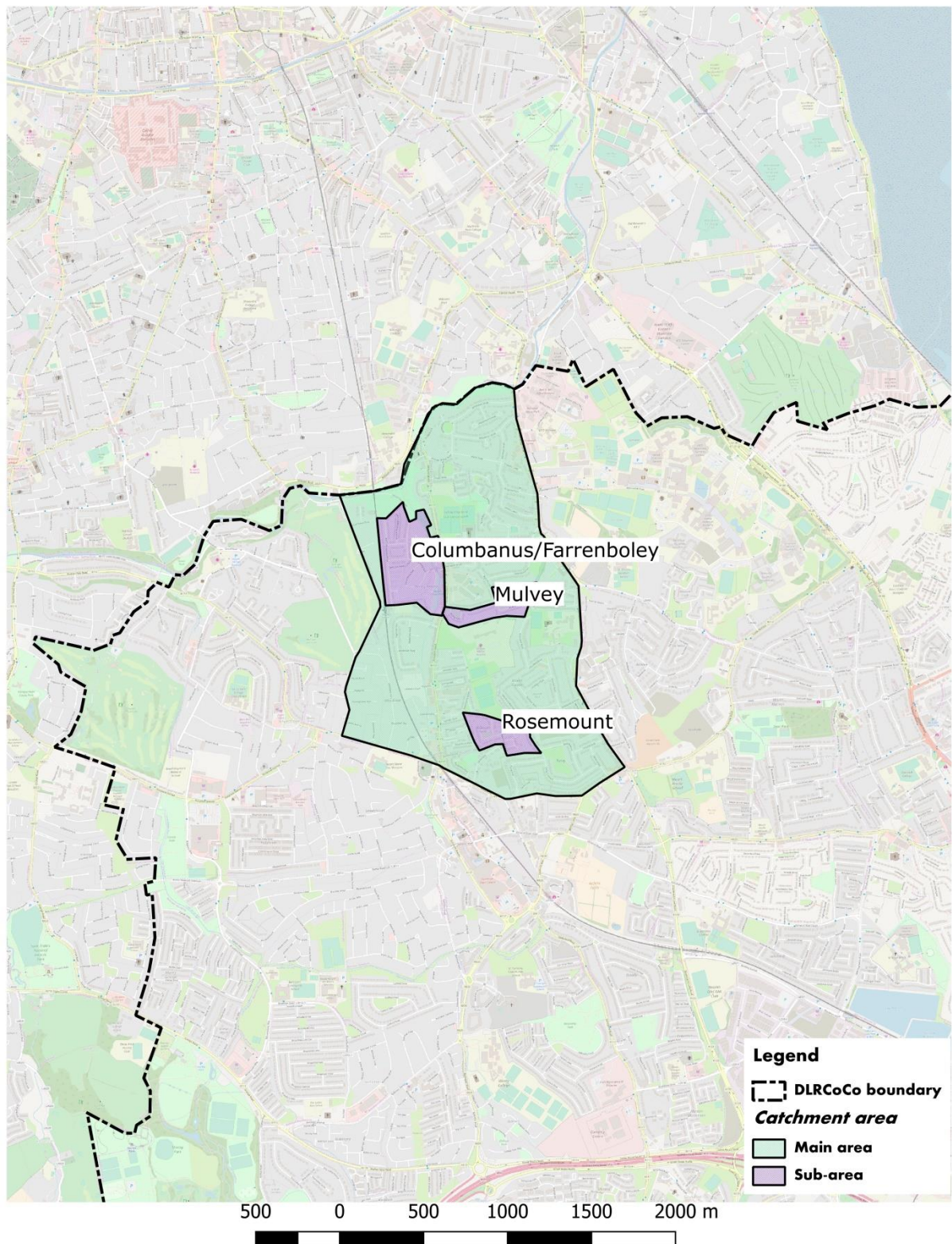
Figure 1 below shows the catchment area within the wider county area. Figure 2 then highlights the five electoral divisions within the catchment area. Figure 3 presents all small areas of the catchment area in terms of the deprivation index, using the most recent Census analysis. Figure 4 then highlights the three main estates and areas within the catchment area that experience higher levels of relative deprivation. Further maps are used in this section to present the focus of future developments, as well as the areas covered by local plans.

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4 "A Socio-Economic Profile of Dún Laoghaire Rathdown" prepared by Southside Partnership informs the County level contextual sections. This report provides a review of key indicators at county level and examines indicators for the disadvantaged SAs in the county.

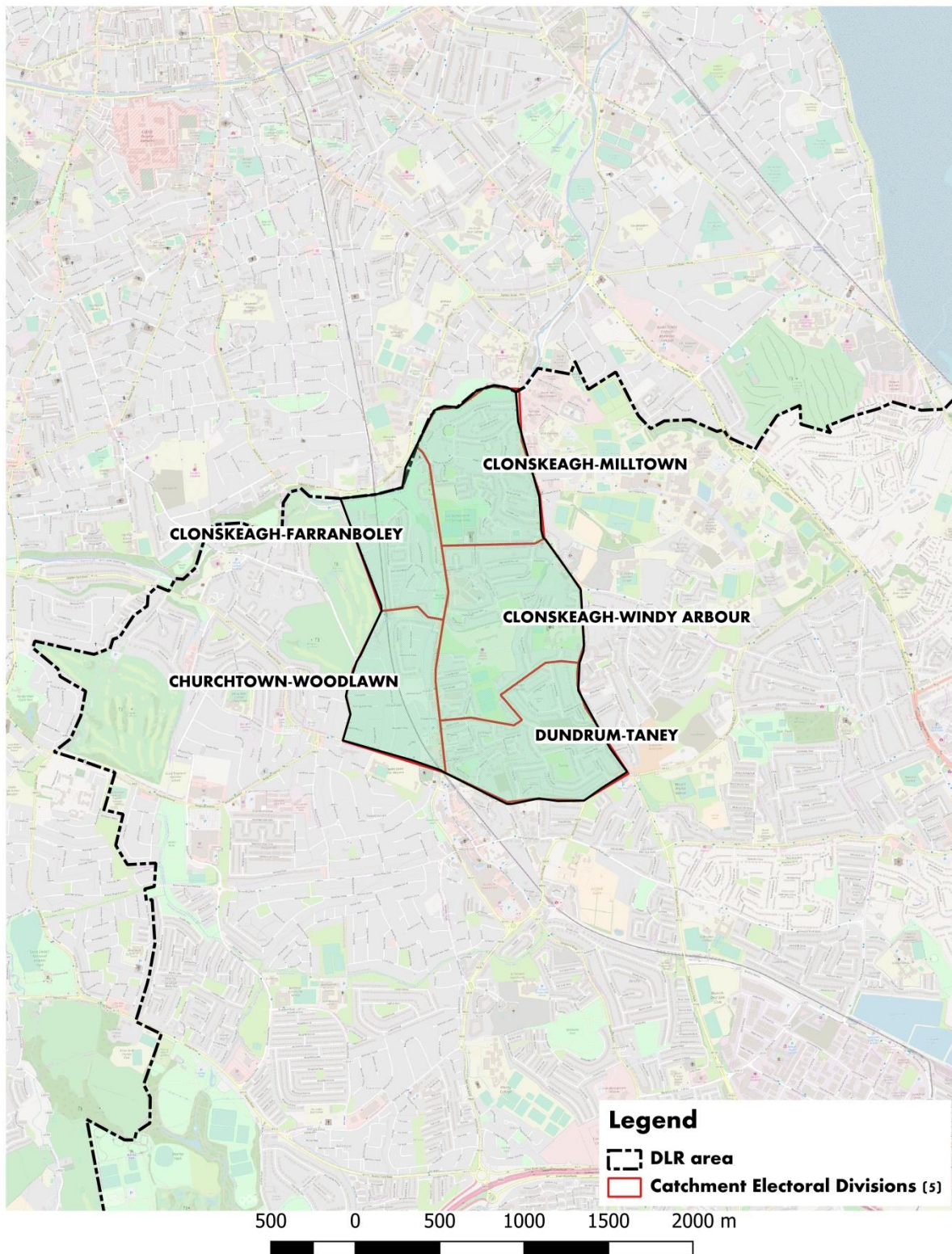
**Figure 1: Map of catchment area, sub-areas and Council boundary.**

Source: OSM Contributors. CRS: 2157. Map by Eoin O'Mahony, UCD.



**Figure 2: Map of catchment area, electoral divisions within the catchment and Council boundary.**

Source: OSM Contributors, CSO. CRS: 2157. Map by Eoin O'Mahony, UCD.



According to the Pobal HP Deprivation Index <sup>5</sup>, three of the five electoral districts were considered as affluent and the other two marginally above average. However, when these five electoral divisions are broken down further into a series of 41 smaller areas, there are some significant differences to be noted, with evidence of pockets of disadvantage. Small areas are much more homogeneous in their social composition and have a uniform population size with a mean of just under 100 households.

In simple terms, the *deprivation index* is a series of maps measuring the relative affluence or disadvantage of a particular geographical area in the Republic of Ireland, using data compiled from various censuses. It is now based on the most up to date data from the 2016 census and is developed down to street level based on small-area statistics that relate to between 80 and 100 households on average, showing the extent to which every neighbourhood is affluent or deprived. The measurements look at 10 key indicators including: the proportion of skilled professionals, education levels, employment levels, and single-parent households found in an area.

The Index shows the level of overall affluence and deprivation at the Small Area level. Using this index it is possible to compare affluence and deprivation between small areas and between Local Authorities. This data is particularly useful in assessing a range of social and community outcomes, depending on how deprived or affluent an area and is used as a key reference point for planning responses to issues associated with high deprivation scores.

The fundamental concept of deprivation that lies at the heart of the Pobal HP Deprivation Index is the concept of relative deprivation namely that it seeks to understand how people have access to opportunities within their community and society and hence opportunity deprivation is assessed as a key aspect of deprivation.

The validity and usefulness of the Pobal HP Deprivation Index ultimately lies in its ability to predict and explain the socio-economic differentials observed in relation to health, well-being, education, financial position, housing, environment and crime. The index is used in shaping, guiding and monitoring public policies through its focus on explaining and predicting outcomes.

The Relative Index Score for the county as a whole decreased from 10.6 in 2011 to 10.0 in 2016, representing a decrease of 0.6 points. Although the score has decreased, Dún Laoghaire Rathdown is still the most affluent local authority in the country, as was the case in 2011. However, the gap between it and other affluent counties (Fingal, Dublin City, Galway City and Kildare) has reduced slightly. Even though DLR as a whole is categorised as Affluent, there are many disadvantaged areas dispersed throughout the county.

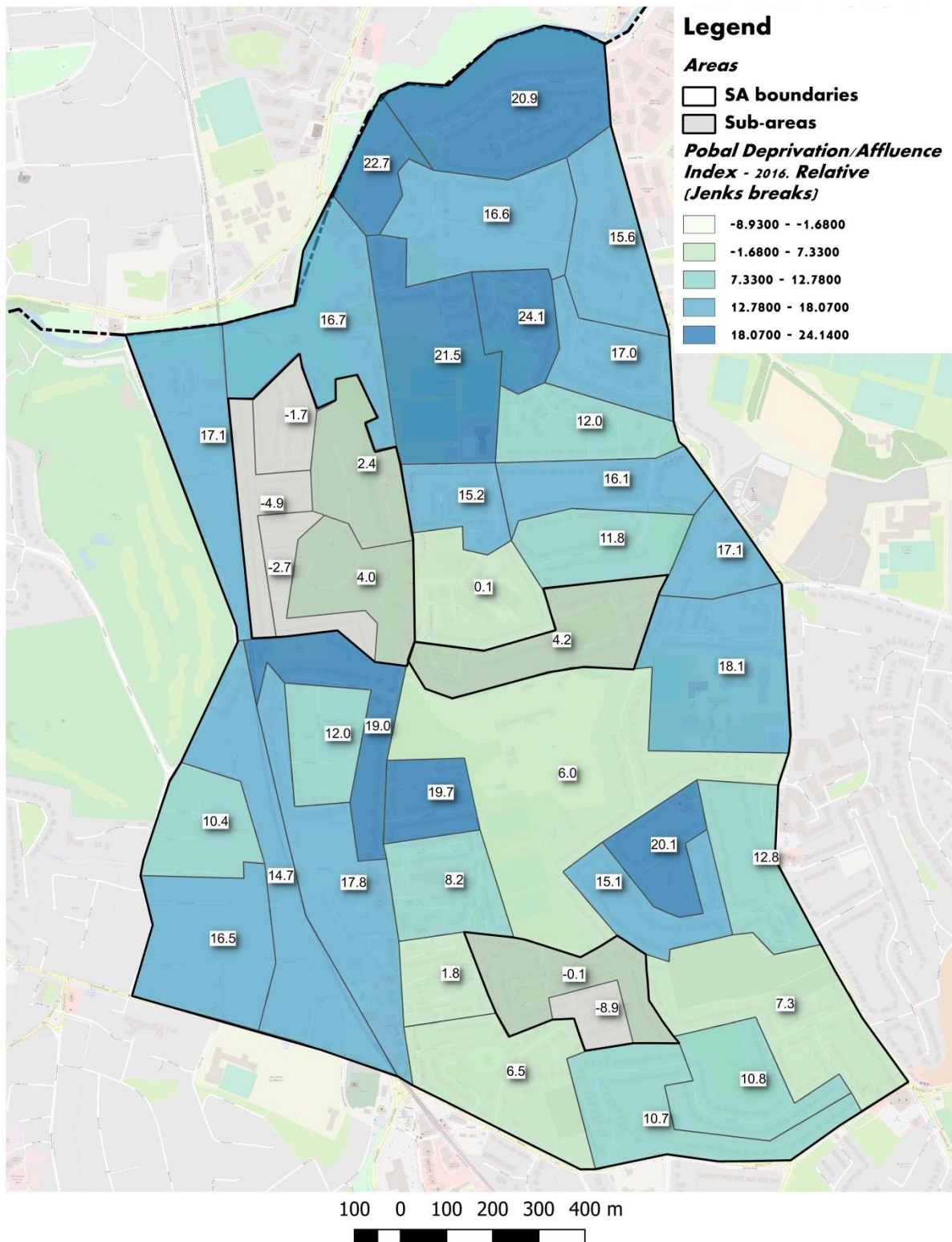
In the following map, the Index Scores range from roughly -40 (most disadvantaged) to +40 (most affluent).

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<sup>5</sup> The Pobal HP Deprivation Index (Haase and Pratschke, 2012). The Pobal HP Deprivation Index is based on Small Areas (SA), the new census geography developed jointly by the Ordnance Survey of Ireland (OSI) and the Central Statistics Office (CSO) for the publication of the 2011 Small Area Population Statistics (SAPS). Before 2011, the smallest spatial units for which consistent SAPS data were available were the electoral divisions (EDs).

**Figure 3: Pobal Deprivation Index (2016, Relative) for the Small Areas within the Catchment Area.**

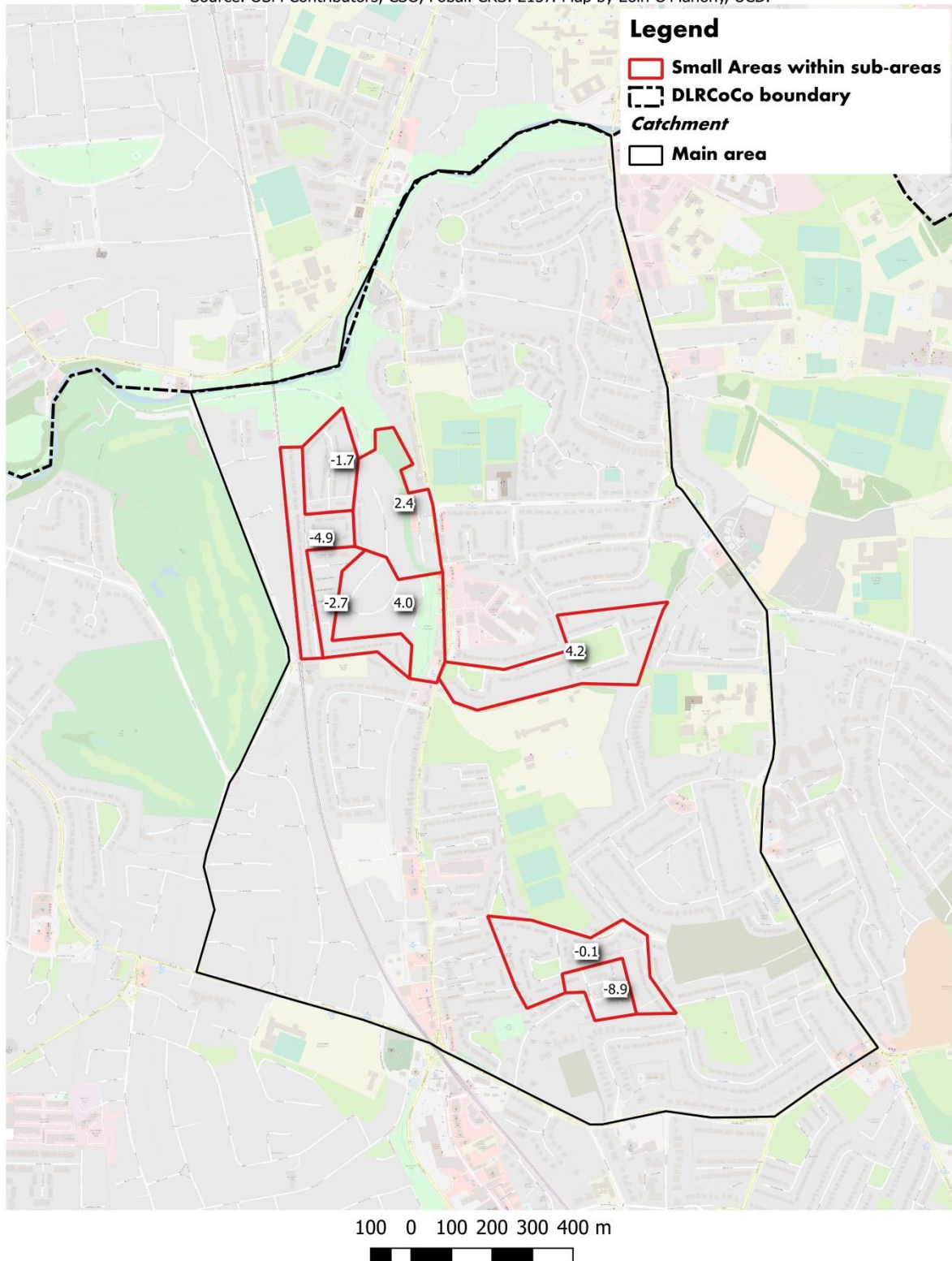
Source: OSM Contributors, CSO, Pobal. CRS: 2157. Map by Eoin O'Mahony, UCD.



During this profiling section, three specific geographic sub-areas are mentioned in terms of their relative levels of disadvantage. The following map highlights these three areas.

**Figure 4: Pobal Deprivation Index (2016, Relative) for the Small Areas within the Sub-areas.**

Source: OSM Contributors, CSO, Pobal. CRS: 2157. Map by Eoin O'Mahony, UCD.

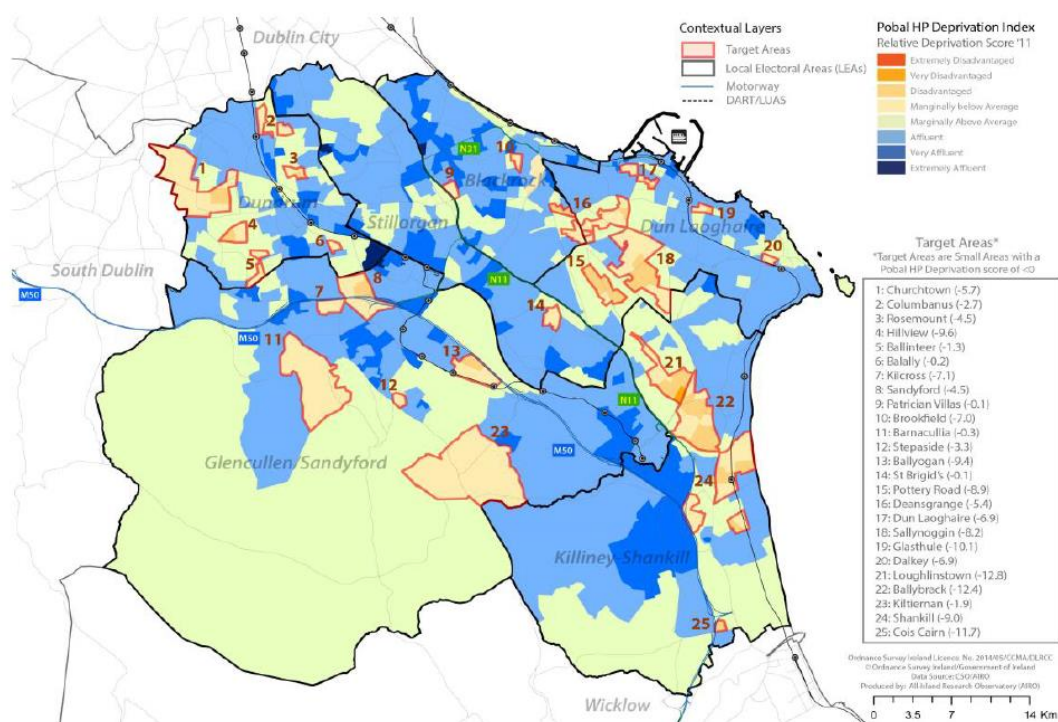


Given the focus of this report is on the need for community facilities in the area, it is important in this section that full consideration is given to all sections of the community, especially where there are more deprived areas, and where there are limited levels of community development taking place throughout the catchment area.

The three sub-areas that are referred to through the profile section are local authority developed estates, built during the mid-20th century. Almost 2,000 people are resident in these areas. The profiling of these three sub-areas in this section highlights many commonalities, in relation to the socio-economic differentials of health, well-being, education, financial position and housing.

This focus mirrors the current Southside Partnership plan in terms of their Targeted Area strategy, where they concentrate on 101 small areas in the in the county. “The identified small areas have been grouped into 25 Target Areas across the local authority area and now provide the Partnership with a clear evidence base for focusing on the most disadvantaged and 'at risk' of disadvantage areas in Dun Laoghaire Rathdown.” Two of the 25 target areas are within the catchment area for this report, namely Columbanus and Rosemount.

FIGURE 4A: 25 TARGET AREAS CONSIDERED THE MOST DISADVANTAGED AND 'AT RISK' OF DISADVANTAGE AREAS IN DUN LAOGHAIRE RATHDOWN<sup>6</sup>



<sup>6</sup> Southside Partnership Strategy, 2016-2018 People, Partnerships & Possibilities

According to the Southside Partnership analysis:

“The Pobal HP Deprivation Index shows that over 11,000 people in Dun Laoghaire Rathdown are either ‘very disadvantaged’ or ‘disadvantaged’. In addition, a further 17,000 people in the county are classified as ‘marginally below average’ and Southside Partnership is also concerned with supporting these communities to protect them from further hardship. Cumulatively, there are 28,480 people in our county that are experiencing poverty and social exclusion. There is evidence that the position of subgroups that were already disadvantaged before the recession has deteriorated at a faster rate than on average. In this sense, there is evidence of social inequalities widening for some population subgroups.”<sup>7</sup>

The following section examines the most recent data available in order to develop an understanding of the profile of the overall catchment area, as well as the smaller pockets (including from the Southside Partnership analysis- Target Area 2: Columbanus and Target Area 3: Rosemount). These sub-areas represent 8 of the 41 small areas within the catchment area and are classified within the deprivation indices as having been consistently below average in terms of affluence over the three relevant Census periods.

As there are multiple factors which influence the scoring on the index (age dependency ratio, lone parent ratio, primary level education and unemployment) the following section examines the factors that have caused these small areas to be classified as more or less affluent. In their analysis of the county level statistics and patterns of disadvantage, the Southside Partnership notes that “social exclusion has become even more concentrated since 2011 and less dispersed”. The factors influencing this are therefore studied and allow for a detailed look at educational attainment, unemployment, single-parent status, local authority renting and social class at small area level, as these are likely indicators of social exclusion.

In 2017, the Southside Partnership refined their approach, based on the 2016 Census data. They continue to target work in specific areas or clusters of the county based on their area profile. They also prioritise work with target groups that have been identified as being particularly vulnerable to poverty and social exclusion, irrespective of their location, and the supports and services offered by Southside Partnership are open to all of the SICAP target groups.

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<sup>7</sup> Southside Partnership Strategy, 2016-2018 People, Partnerships & Possibilities

## 2.2 PROFILING THE CATCHMENT AREA

This section uses the Census 2016 data to present in-depth evidence of the nature of this community; its age structure, types of family units, ethnic background, education and employment levels and housing patterns. Where relevant, the county and national comparative figures and trends are noted.

### CATCHMENT AREA POPULATION AND AGE PROFILE

There are a total of 10,372 people living in the area, 4959 males and 5413 females. This represents an increase in population of 5.5% since the 2011 Census, mirroring the 5.7% growth in population across the Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County.

The catchment area's population is broken down over the five electoral divisions as per the following table. The largest two electoral divisions of Dundrum Taney and Clonskeagh Windy Arbour make up half of the total population.

TABLE 1: POPULATION OF EACH ELECTORAL DIVISION WITHIN THE CARCHMENT AREA

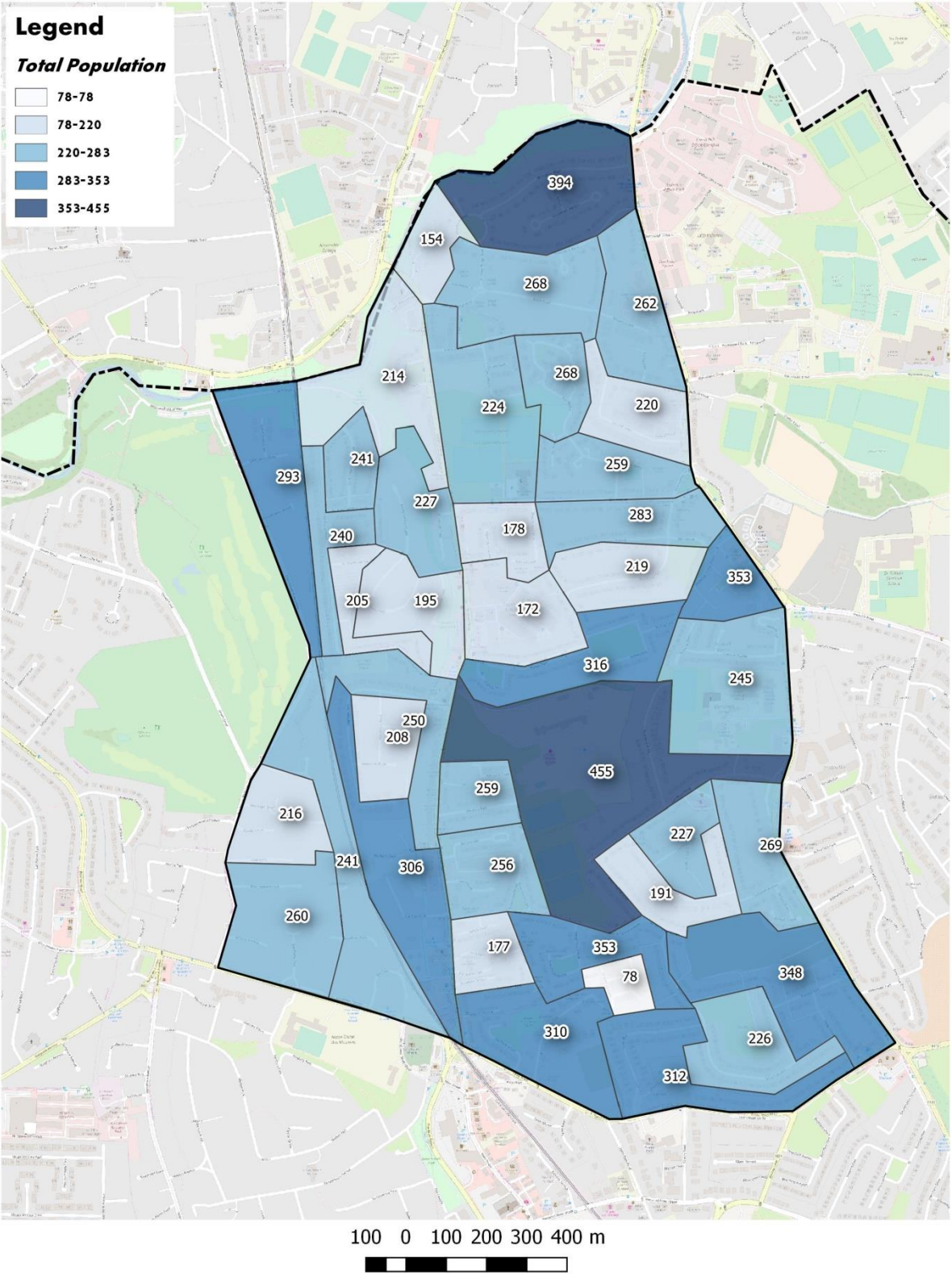
Electoral Division	Number	Proportion
Clonskeagh-Milltown	2049	19.8
Clonskeagh-Farranboley	1615	15.6
Churchtown-Woodlawn	1481	14.3
Clonskeagh-Windy Arbour	2736	26.4
Dundrum-Taney	2491	24.0
	10372	100

The catchment area represents about 5% of the population of the Dun Laoghaire County which has a population of about 218,018, making it the 6th largest local authority by population accounting for 4.5% the Republic of Ireland's total population (4,757,976), and 16.2% of the total population of the Dublin Region (1,347,359). Population trends within the five electoral divisions have been stable over the period of the last four Census data points, showing very slight increases since 2011.

The population increased by 11,751(5.7%) between the Census years 2011 and 2016. This increase is greater than the rate of population growth at national level (3.7%) and similar to that for the Dublin Region (5.8%). The following figure shows the population of each small area in the catchment.

**Figure 5.1: Total Population from Census 2016 for each Small Area.**

Source: CSO, OSM Contributors. CRS: 2157. Map by Eoin O'Mahony, UCD.



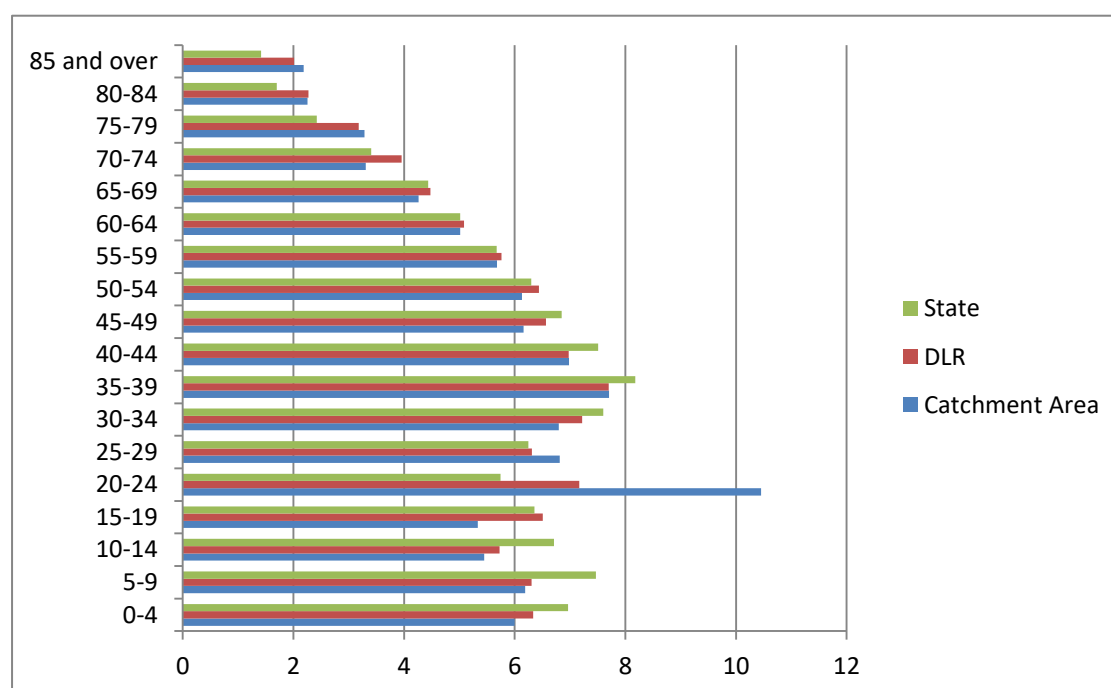
The following table presents the age structure of the catchment area.

TABLE 2: AGE PROFILE OF CATCHMENT AREA

Age Profile	Number	Percentage
0 to 4 Years	622	6.0
5 to 9 Years	642	6.2
10 to 15 years	660	6.4
16 to 18 years	308	3.0
19 to 24 years	1234	11.9
25 to 44 years	2935	28.3
45 to 64 Years	2384	23.0
65 years +	1587	15.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>10372</b>	<b>100</b>

The proportions and numbers of preschool, primary and second level children and young people are broadly in line with the county and national levels. The following chart presents a comparison all of the age groups within the catchment area, the county and the state.

FIGURE 1: AGE BREAKDOWN BY CATCHMENT AREA, COUNTY AND STATE



The 20 to 24 age group represents the largest single age cohort. The close proximity of UCD accounts for this higher degree of young people in this age bracket. In two of the Clonskeagh electoral areas, there are twice as many people in their early 20s as compared to the rest of the county.

**TABLE 3: AGE BREAKDDOWN BY ELECTORAL DIVISION OF CATCHMENT AREA**

	Churchtown- Woodlawn	Clonskeagh- Farranboley	Clonskeagh- Milltown	Clonskeagh- Windy Arbour	Dundrum- Taney
<b>0 to 4 Years</b>	5.8	6.1	5.9	6.0	6.1
<b>5 to 9 Years</b>	6.8	4.8	6.6	6.1	6.5
<b>10 to 15 years</b>	7.2	5.0	8.6	4.8	6.6
<b>16 to 18 years</b>	4.1	1.6	3.8	2.4	3.1
<b>19 to 24 years</b>	7.9	8.4	13.3	15.6	11.4
<b>25 to 44 years</b>	25.3	32.9	26.9	31.0	25.3
<b>45 to 64 Years</b>	25.4	23.4	22.7	20.9	23.7
<b>65 years +</b>	17.5	17.8	12.2	13.1	17.3
<b>Total</b>	100	100	100	100	100

There are some 1587 people aged over 65 years living in the catchment area. Three of the electoral areas have over 17% of their communities aged in this bracket, significantly higher than the national figure of 13.4%. In fact, Dundrum Taney has one of the oldest populations per electoral division in the country, with 9.5% of the community aged over 75 years.

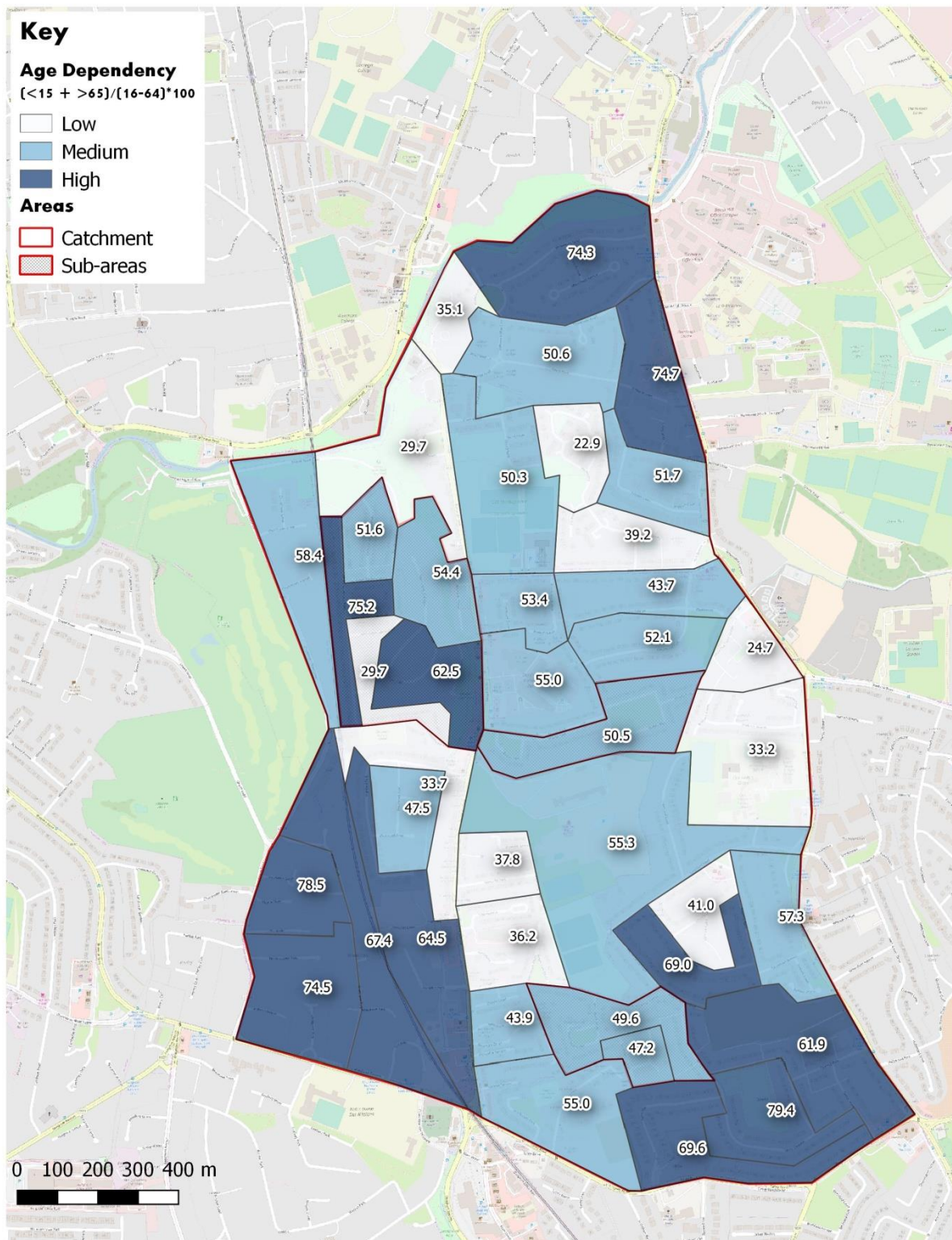
Figure 5.2 overleaf presents an overview of age dependency ratios within the catchment area. Where there are larger numbers of older people (aged over 65 years) and younger people (aged under 15 years), this indicates a lower number of economically active people and by consequence, that the working-age members of the community have more people to support. The higher this ratio, the higher the numbers of people who are considered dependent on those aged 15 to 64 years.

The age dependency ratio for the county is 55.1% and 52.7% for the State. It is clear that the age profile of the catchment area is for the most part above the county and state averages. In some areas, the number of economically active people is very low, relative to county and State averages. Figure 5.3 emphasises this point by demonstrating the large proportions of people aged over 65 in those areas with the high age dependency ratios.

In parallel, there are some small areas, where the ratio and number of older people is much lower than the county and state averages. These areas tend to be closer to UCD and therefore have a larger younger student population.

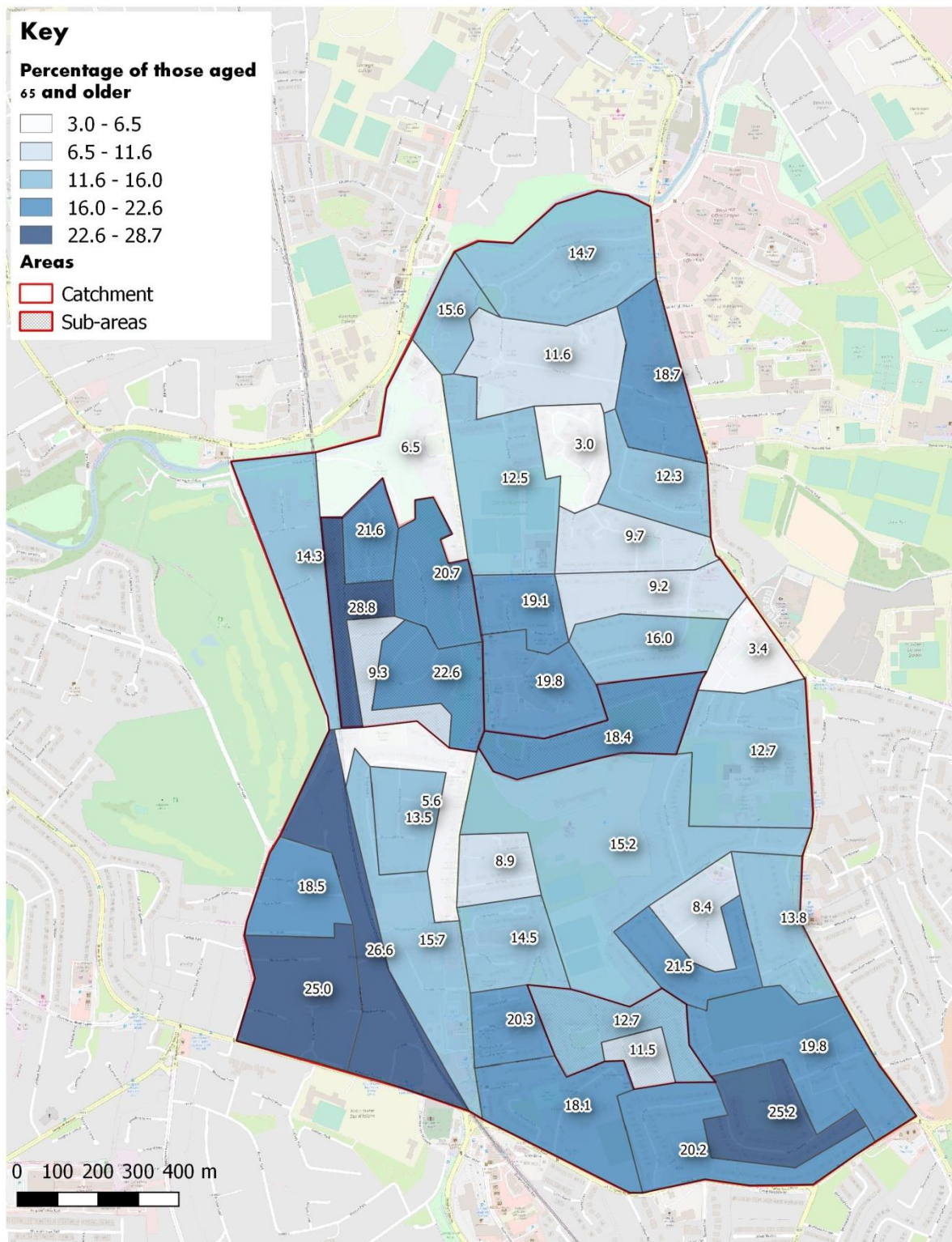
**Figure 5.2: Age Dependency from Census 2016 for each small area within the catchment and sub-areas.**

Source: CSO, OSM Contributors. CRS: 2157. Map by Eoin O'Mahony, UCD



**Figure 5.3: Percentage of total population aged 65 and over from Census 2016 for each small area within the catchment and sub-areas.**

Source: CSO, OSM Contributors. CRS: 2157. Map by Eoin O'Mahony, UCD



## FAMILY CYCLE AND STRUCTURE

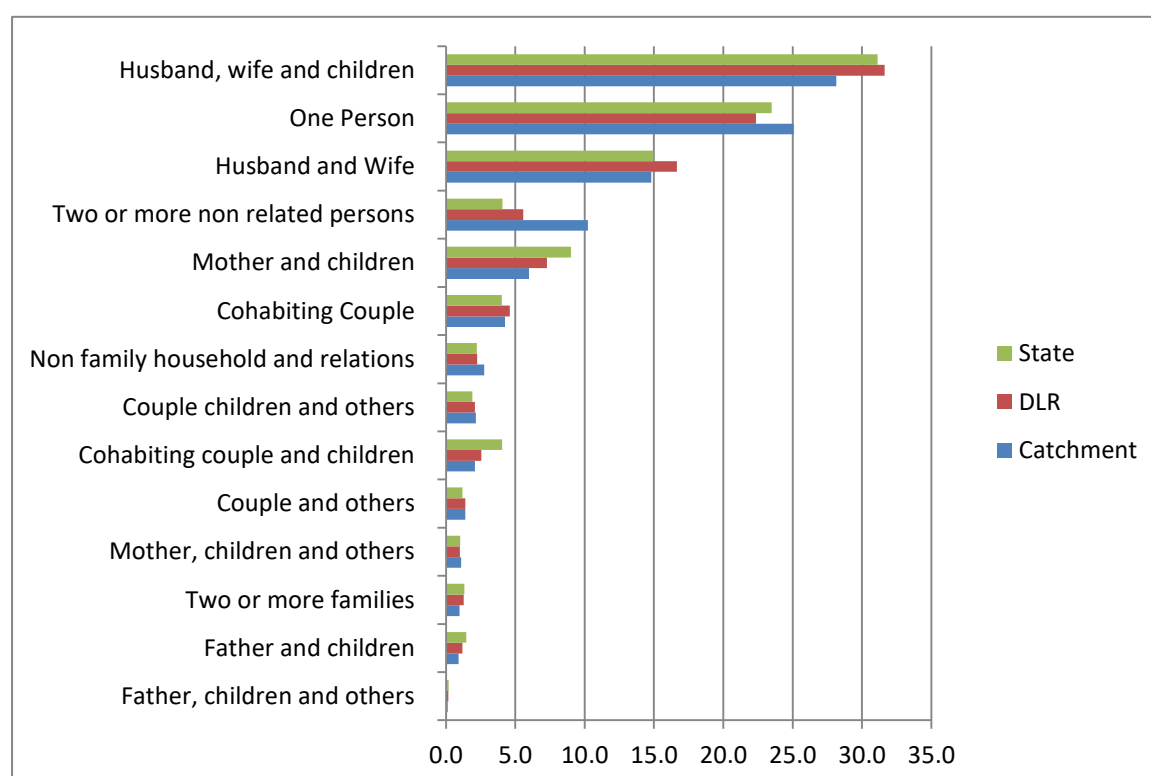
The two most common household types are those of a one person household (25%) and married couple with children household (28%). The following table gives further breakdown of the number of people living in each household type.

TABLE 4: PRIVATE HOUSEHOLDS BY TYPE

	No. of households	Proportion
One Person	967	25.1
Husband and Wife	571	14.8
Cohabiting Couple	164	4.3
Husband, wife and children	1086	28.2
Cohabiting couple and children	80	2.1
Father and children	35	0.9
Mother and children	231	6.0
Couple and others	54	1.4
Couple children and others	83	2.2
Father, children and others	5	0.1
Mother, children and others	42	1.1
Two or more families	38	1.0
Non family household and relations	106	2.7
Two or more non related persons	395	10.2
Total	3857	100.0

As evidenced by the following chart, these household patterns are broadly in line with those of the county and the state. The higher number (10.2%) of household types based on two or more non-related persons living together can be explained by the number of students living in the area who are sharing accommodation.

FIGURE 2: HOUSEHOLD TYPE BY CATCHMENT AREA, COUNTY AND STATE



However, when the small areas are examined across the catchment area, there is evidence of much higher numbers of one parent families in the estates of Farrenboley/Columbanus (21.1%), Mulvey (11.2%) and Rosemount (11.3%). The following table looks at the stages in family cycles across the catchment area.

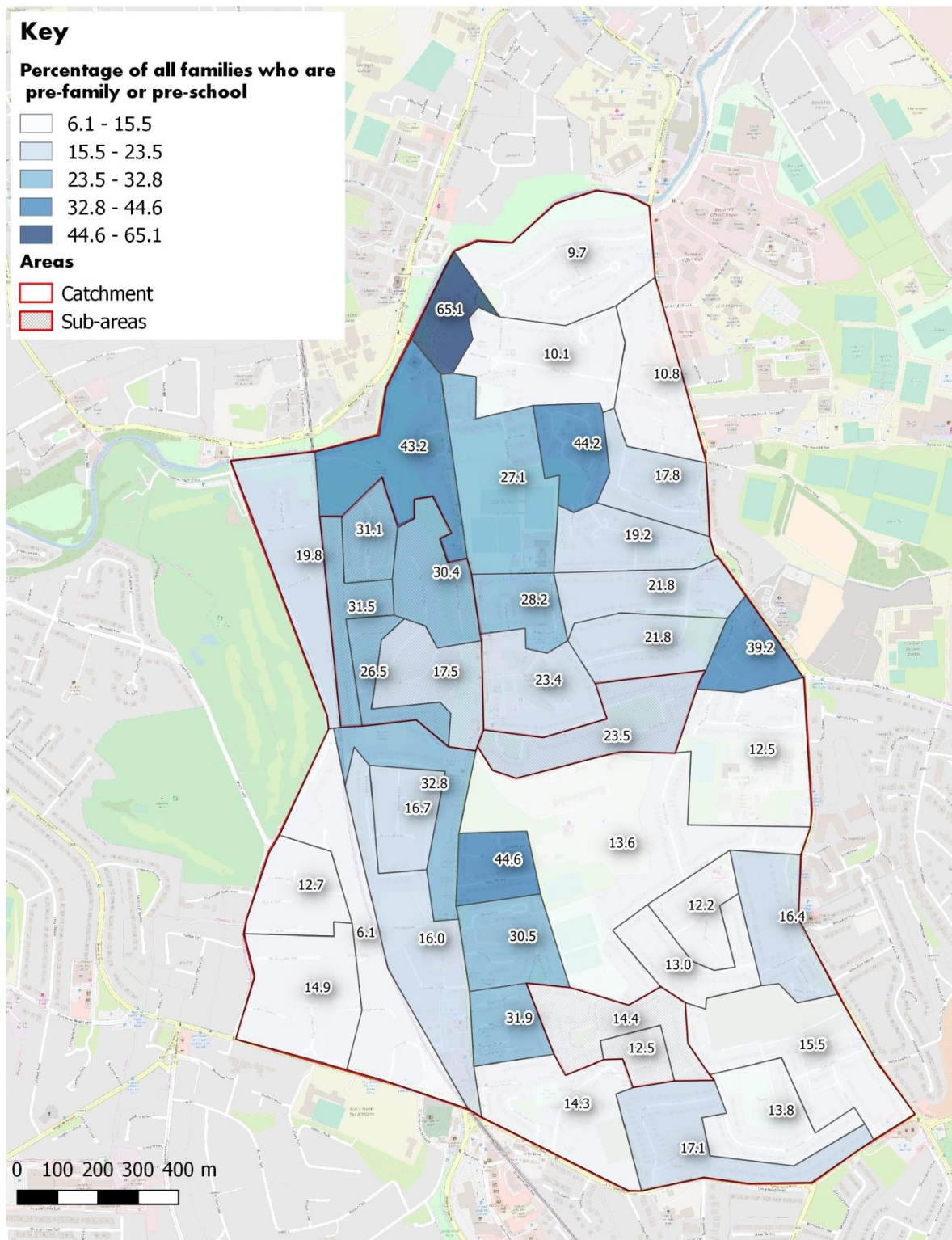
TABLE 5: FAMILIES BY FAMILY CYCLE

	No. of families	% of families
<b>Pre-family</b>	283	11.7
<b>Empty nest</b>	208	8.6
<b>Retired</b>	328	13.5
<b>Pre-school</b>	241	9.9
<b>Early school</b>	290	11.9
<b>Pre-adolescent</b>	257	10.6
<b>Adolescent</b>	212	8.7
<b>Adult</b>	609	25.1
<b>Total</b>	2428	100.0

Over one half (52.8%) of the families in the catchment are at pre-family, have children or adolescents stages of the family cycle. Some 22.1% of families are at the other end of this cycle, where the children have moved on and the family members are at retirement stage. These family cycles are broadly in line with patterns in Dun Laoghaire Rathdown, where there are similar proportions of families at retirement stage (13.4%). Figure 5.4 highlights where there are higher concentrations of younger families.

**Figure 5.4: Percentage of total number of families who are pre-family and pre-school from Census 2016 for each small area within the catchment and sub-areas.**

Source: CSO, OSM Contributors. CRS: 2157. Map by Eoin O'Mahony, UCD



The following table presents an overview of families in the catchment area with children aged both under and over 15 years.

**TABLE 6A: FAMILY UNITS IN THE CATCHMENT AREA WITH CHILDREN UNDER 15 (BY NUMBER AND PROPORTION)**

	No. of families	Proportion
<b>Couples with all children aged under 15</b>	<b>687</b>	<b>87.2</b>
<b>One parent family (mother) with all children aged under 15</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>11.2</b>
<b>Total one parent family (father) with all children aged under 15</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>1.6</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>788</b>	<b>100</b>

**TABLE 7B: FAMILY UNITS IN THE CATCHMENT AREA WITH CHILDREN OVER 15 (BY NUMBER AND PROPORTION)**

	No. of families	Proportion
<b>Couples with all children aged over 15</b>	<b>435</b>	<b>66.4</b>
<b>One parent family (mother) with all children aged over 15</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>29.3</b>
<b>Total one parent family (father) with all children aged over 15</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>4.3</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>655</b>	<b>100</b>

These proportions of one parent families are broadly in line with those of Dun Laoghaire Rathdown.

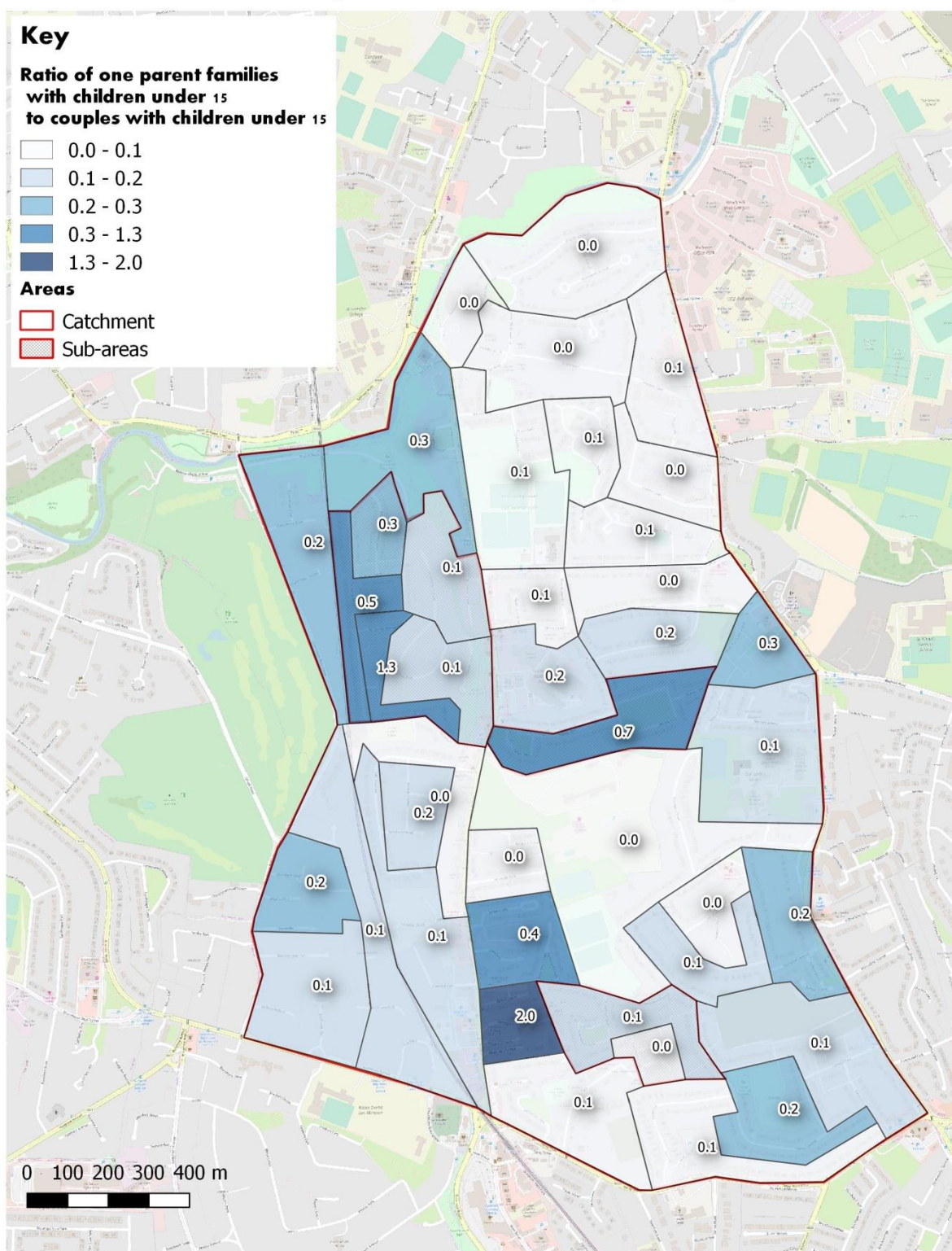
However, when the small area statistics are examined, there is evidence that these overall figures mask some different patterns across the catchment area. In many of these estates and small areas (specifically in those of Columbanus, Mulvey and Rosemount), over 40% of families with children under the age of 15 are one parent families. Similiar patterns are evident in these areas in relation to children aged over 15.

A total of 486 children are living in one parent families in the catchment area in 336 family units. The following figure presents the manner in which these families are clustered in certain areas within the catchment.

The following two figures highlight the areas in which one parent families are concentrated within the catchment area. Figure 5.5.1 focuses on those with children aged under 15 and figure 5.5.2 children aged over 15. It is clear that there are many areas with few or no one parent families and other areas with a higher proportion of one parent families.

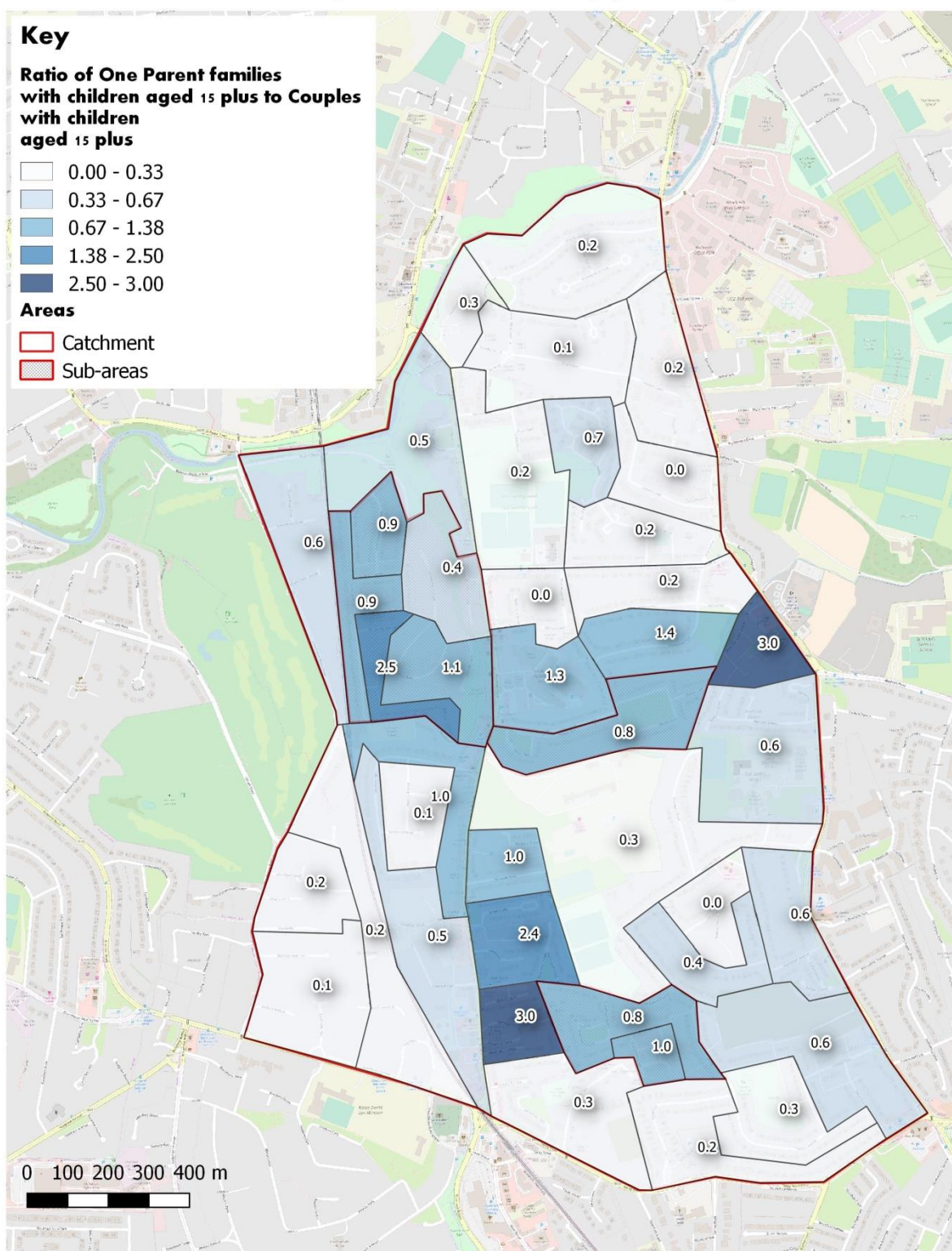
**Figure 5.5.1: Ratio of One Parent families with children under 15 to Couples with children under 15 from Census 2016 for each small area within the catchment and sub-areas.**

Source: CSO, OSM Contributors. CRS: 2157. Map by Eoin O'Mahony, UCD



**Figure 5.5.2: Ratio of One Parent families with children aged 15 plus to Couples with children aged 15 plus from Census 2016 for each small area within the catchment and sub-areas.**

Source: CSO, OSM Contributors. CRS: 2157. Map by Eoin O'Mahony, UCD



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## MIGRATION AND ETHNICITY

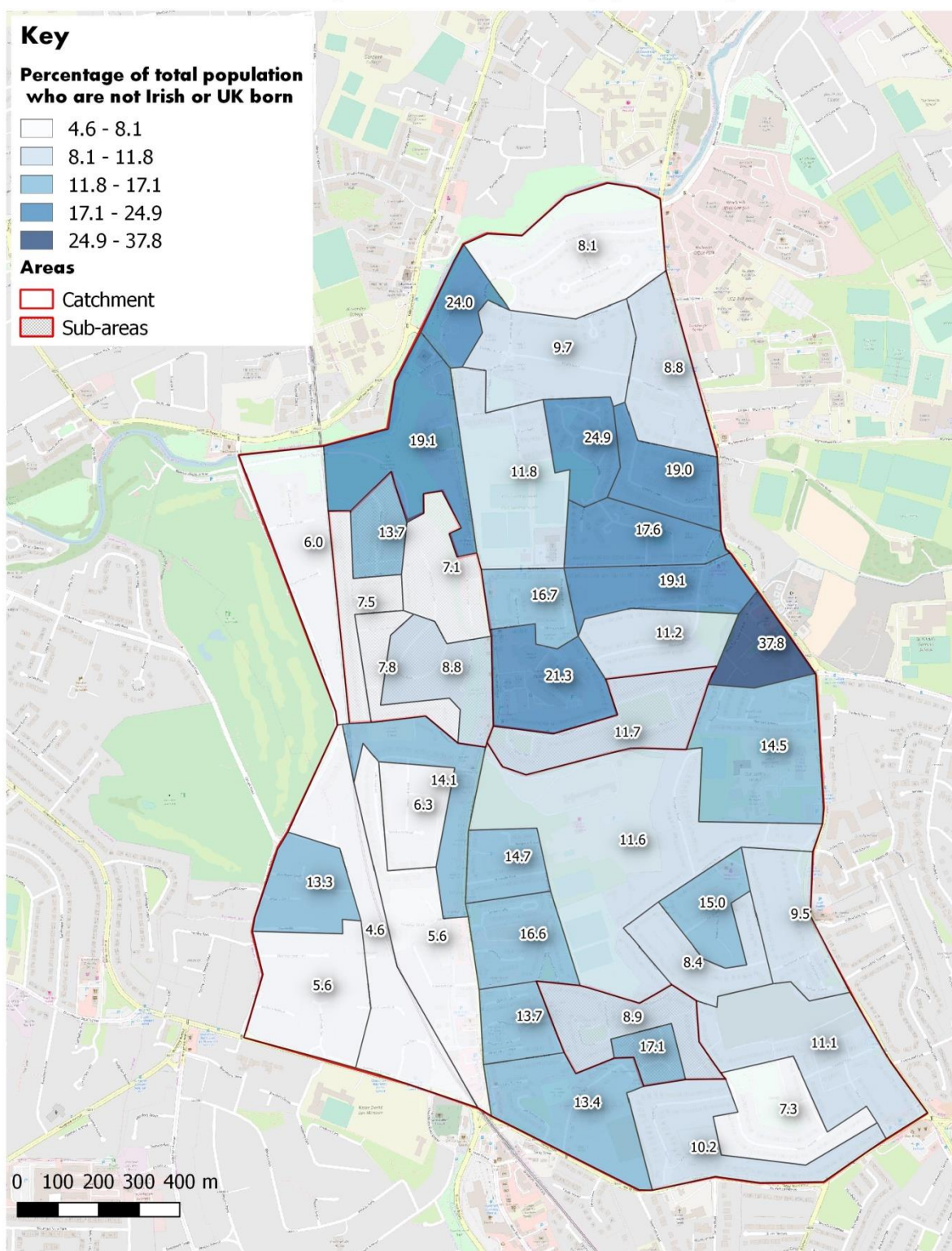
Over 80% of the catchment area population was born in Ireland, with almost 90% having Irish nationality. Of the remainder of the area population, some 10% of people were born within the EU, half in the UK. Almost 8% were born outside of the EU28. A large majority of the population (93.5%) identifies themselves as either from “white Irish” or “other white” backgrounds.

Some 88% of the population was resident at the same address one year before the Census day, with a further 7% living elsewhere in the County one year prior. Some 3% were living outside Ireland at that stage. This evidence points to relatively stable population levels, with little inward movement of new groups of people from different nationalities.

The following maps highlight firstly where people who are not Irish or UK-born are living within the catchment area. The second map then examines how competent any foreign language speakers feel about their ability to speak English. While many of those born outside of Ireland and the UK are living in areas close to UCD, the proportion of those with English language difficulties are clustered in specific areas.

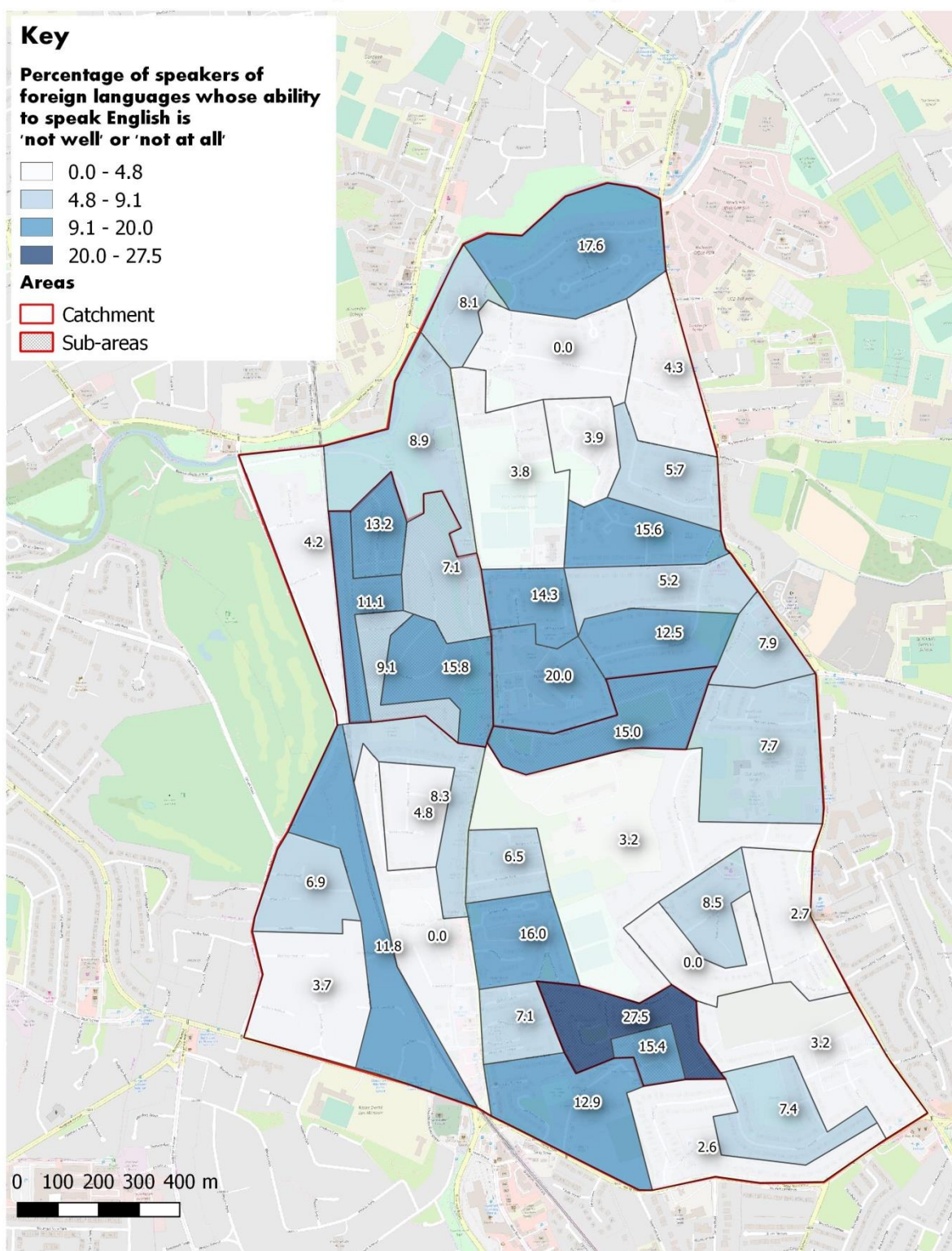
**Figure 5.7: Percentage of total population who are not Irish or UK born from Census 2016 for each small area within the catchment and sub-areas.**

Source: CSO, OSM Contributors. CRS: 2157. Map by Eoin O'Mahony, UCD



**Figure 5.8: Percentage of speakers of foreign languages whose ability to speak English is 'not well' or 'not at all' from Census 2016 for each small area within the catchment and sub-areas.**

Source: CSO, OSM Contributors. CRS: 2157. Map by Eoin O'Mahony, UCD



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## EDUCATION

The key factors that are relevant in looking at education in the catchment area relate to the age when people left school and the highest levels of education that were completed.

Some 12% of persons living in the catchment area had left school by the age of 16, similar to the 13.8% figure in Dun Laoghaire Rathdown, but almost one half of the national figure. A further 17% had ceased their education between the ages of 17 and 18.

This average figure of 29% leaving school before the age of 19 increases to 60% in Clonskeagh-Farrenboleey. The majority of people answering this question had stayed on in their education to the age of 21 and over. The average of 44% increases to 60% in Clonskeagh-Milltown.

Figure 5.9 highlights the proportion of those community members, who had left school by the age of 15.

**Figure 5.9: Percentage of total population aged 15 and above who education ceased at 15 from Census 2016 for each small area within the catchment and sub-areas.**

Source: CSO, OSM Contributors. CRS: 2157. Map by Eoin O'Mahony, UCD

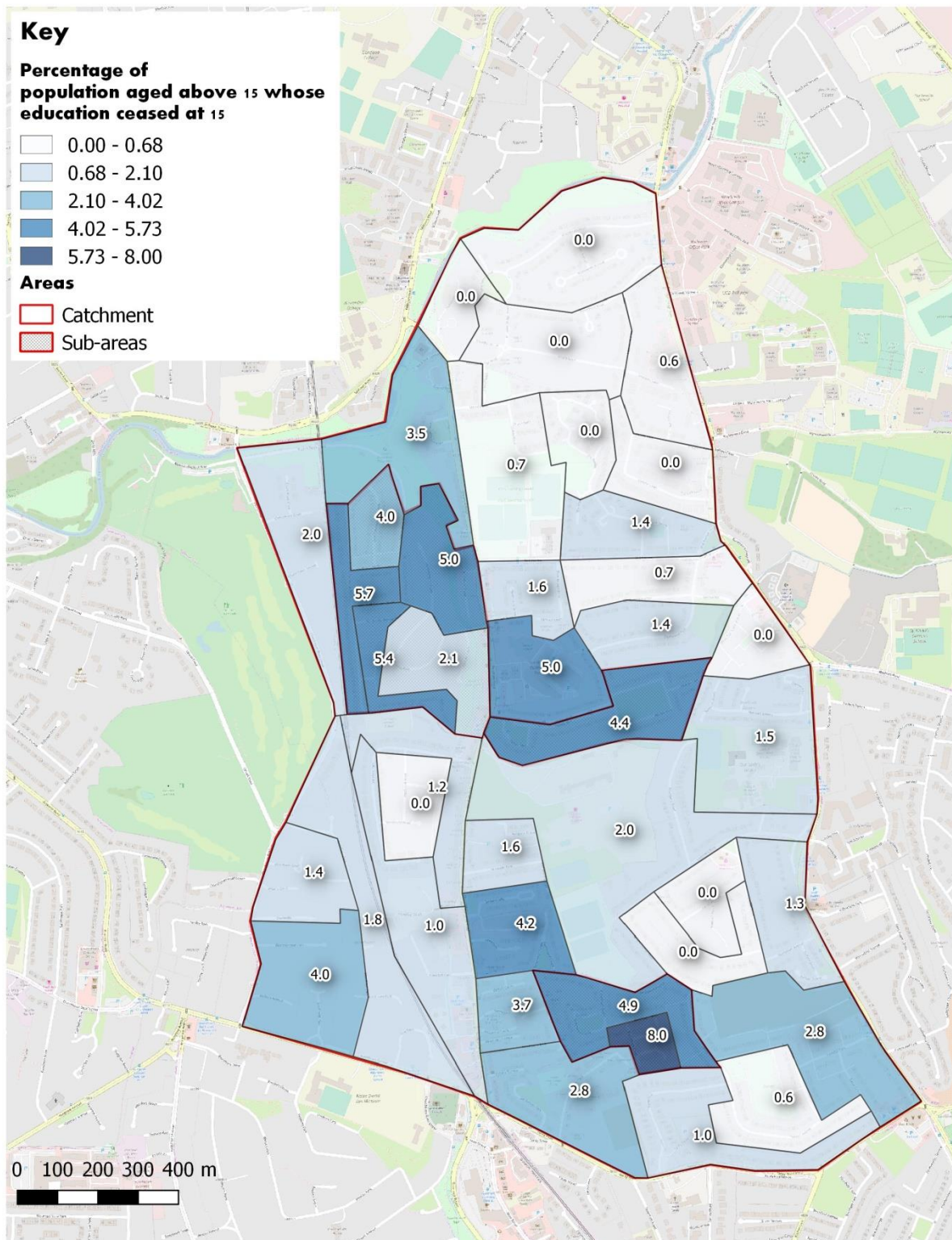


Table 7 below highlights the highest levels of education completed by respondents in the catchment area. The largest points of exit from the education system are at the completion of second level and later at completion of honours bachelor degree or postgraduate qualification.

While almost 4% of the population has completed Doctorates, 15% of the population has exited the education system without a minimum of second level completion/ Leaving Certificate or equivalent. Again the stark difference in figures is reflected in the small area statistical breakdown, where over 25% of some small areas in the three estates named above have left the education system with only a lower secondary level of education.

**TABLE 8: HIGHEST LEVEL OF EDUCATION COMPLETED**

	Number	Proportion
<b>No formal education</b>	40	0.6
<b>Primary education</b>	411	6.4
<b>Lower secondary</b>	513	8.0
<b>Upper secondary</b>	880	13.7
<b>Technical or vocational qualification</b>	383	5.9
<b>Advanced certificate/Completed apprenticeship</b>	226	3.5
<b>Higher certificate</b>	263	4.1
<b>Ordinary bachelor degree or national diploma</b>	574	8.9
<b>Honours bachelor degree, professional qualification or both</b>	1358	21.1
<b>Postgraduate diploma or degree</b>	1547	24.0
<b>Doctorate(Ph.D) or higher</b>	244	3.8
<b>Total</b>	6439	100.0

Some 1464 persons of the over 15 population are still in the education system, the largest proportion of this cohort are also living in the Clonskeagh-Milltown area , linked to the proximity of the area to UCD and the number of students living in this part of the catchment area.

Again, when looking to the small area statistics, there are extreme differences between the estates and areas that border each other in terms of experience of the education system. In the estates of Rosemount, Mulvey and Farrenbole/Columbanus, between 28% and 40% of people had stayed in education beyond 21 years. In many of the other local estates, the figures are double.

Figure 5.10 illustrates where there are clusters of people in the catchment area with no third level qualifications.

**Figure 5.10: Percentage of total population who completed education whose highest qualification is LC or lower from Census 2016 for each small area within the catchment and sub-areas.**

Source: CSO, OSM Contributors. CRS: 2157. Map by Eoin O'Mahony, UCD

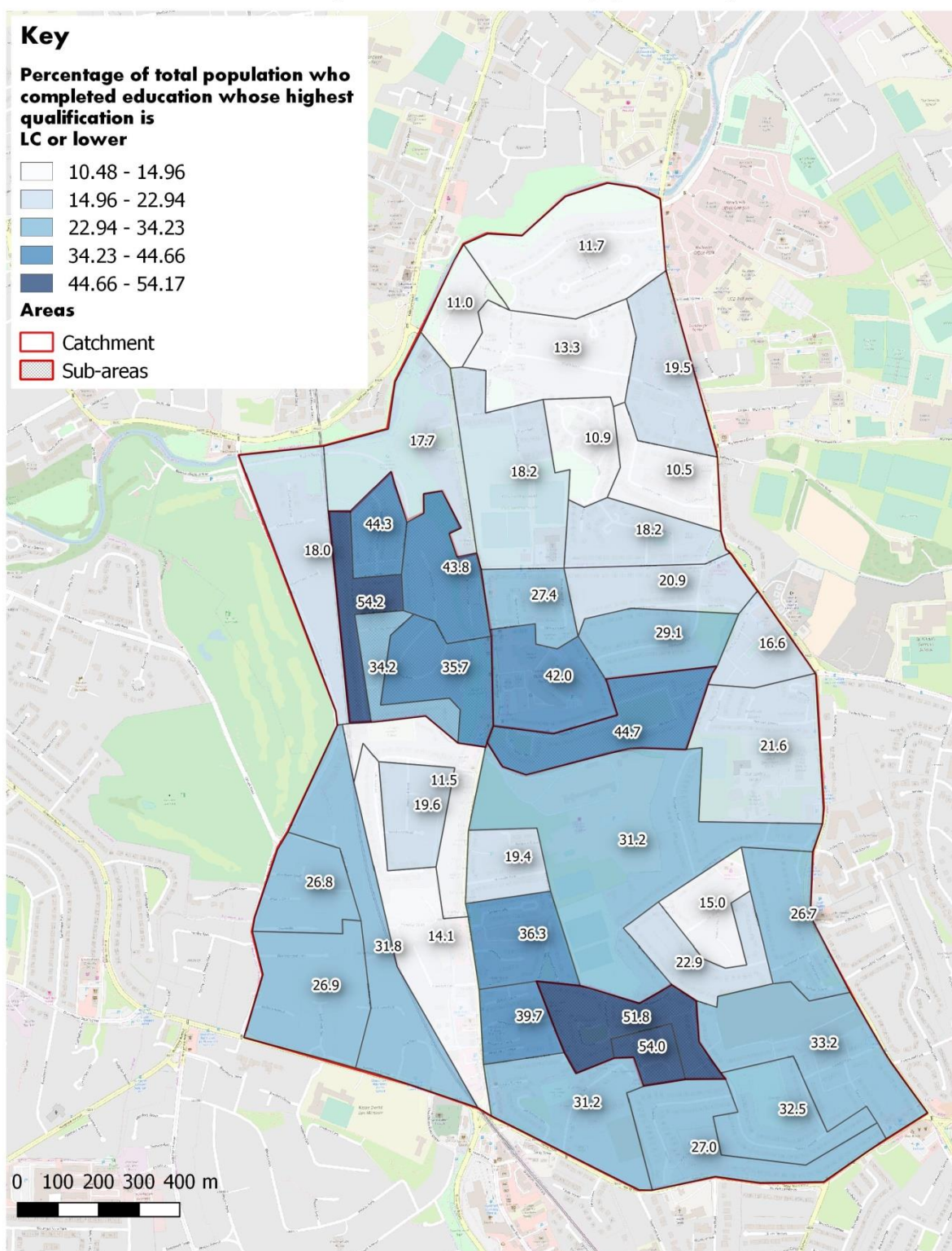


TABLE 9: POPULATION OF CATCHMENT AREA BY SOCIAL CLASS

	Number	Proportion
<b>Professional workers</b>	2152	20.7
<b>Managerial and technical</b>	3763	36.3
<b>Non-manual</b>	1444	13.9
<b>Skilled manual</b>	732	7.1
<b>Semi-skilled</b>	445	4.3
<b>Unskilled</b>	156	1.5
<b>All others gainfully occupied and unknown</b>	1680	16.2
<b>Total</b>	10372	100.0

As a corollary to this, each household was asked to indicate the socio-economic group of the reference person in the household. Over 60% indicated that they were in the employers and managers, higher professional and lower professional groups.

The following table highlights the range of occupation types throughout the catchment area.

TABLE 10: PERSONS AT WORK OR UNEMPLOYED BY OCCUPATION

	Number	Proportion
<b>Managers, directors and senior officials</b>	528	11.7
<b>Professional occupations</b>	1703	37.6
<b>Associate professional and technical occupations</b>	764	16.9
<b>Administrative and secretarial occupations</b>	496	11.0
<b>Skilled trades occupations</b>	262	5.8
<b>Caring, leisure and other service occupations</b>	215	4.7
<b>Sales and customer service occupations</b>	241	5.3
<b>Process, plant and machine operatives</b>	105	2.3
<b>Elementary occupations</b>	214	4.7
<b>Total</b>	4528	100.0

The largest blocks are in the area of professional and associate professional and technical occupations. This makes up over half of all respondents. Managers, directors and senior officials make up 11%, with 13% of men and 8% of women. Grouped together, these three cohorts of managers and professionals make up 66% of all persons by occupation. Over 80% of persons at work from the Clonskeagh-Milltown electoral area are in these occupations. This drops to less than 50% in Farranboley and as low as 25% in some of the small areas and estates in Mulvey, Rosemount and Farranboley/Columbanus.

The two largest industrial sectors where people are employed are in commerce and trade and in the professional services.

Both the responses to the social class and occupation type questions further highlight how the same pockets within the electoral divisions are made up of a different occupational and class mix.

## HOUSING

The Census collects information on the housing circumstances of people in each area, how they are housed, where they are renting or owner occupiers or in houses or apartments.

Some 72.4% of households in the catchment area are either owned outright, owned with mortgage or loan or are occupied free of rent. Some 28% of households are based in the rental system, with the local authority, voluntary body or private entity as landlord. Of these 1039 households, some 82% are in the private sector. Over half of these (62%) are based in two of the electoral divisions, those closest to UCD (Clonskeagh-Milltown and Clonskeagh-Windy Arbour). Some 85% of the households renting from the local authority can be found in two other electoral divisions (Clonskeagh-Farranboley and Dundrum-Taney).

Of the 175 local authority rented houses, some 97% are located in three of the five electoral areas. Of these, some 160 are located in 10 of the small areas, primarily in the estates of Rosemount, Mulvey and Columbanus. Figure 5.13 overleaf highlights how these households are concentrated within these areas.

The Clonskeagh areas make up almost 80% of the households renting from private landlords; again the proximity to UCD and its large student body explains this concentration of rental property in these areas.

TABLE 11: PERMANENT PRIVATE HOUSEHOLDS BY TYPE OF OCCUPANCY

	Number	Proportion
<b>Owner Occupier with Mortgage</b>	1093	29.3
<b>Owner Occupier without Mortgage</b>	1526	40.8
<b>Rented-Private Landlord</b>	855	22.9
<b>Rented-Local Authority</b>	175	4.7
<b>Rented-Voluntary Body</b>	9	0.2
<b>Occupier Free of Rent</b>	78	2.1
<b>Housing StockTotal</b>	3736	100

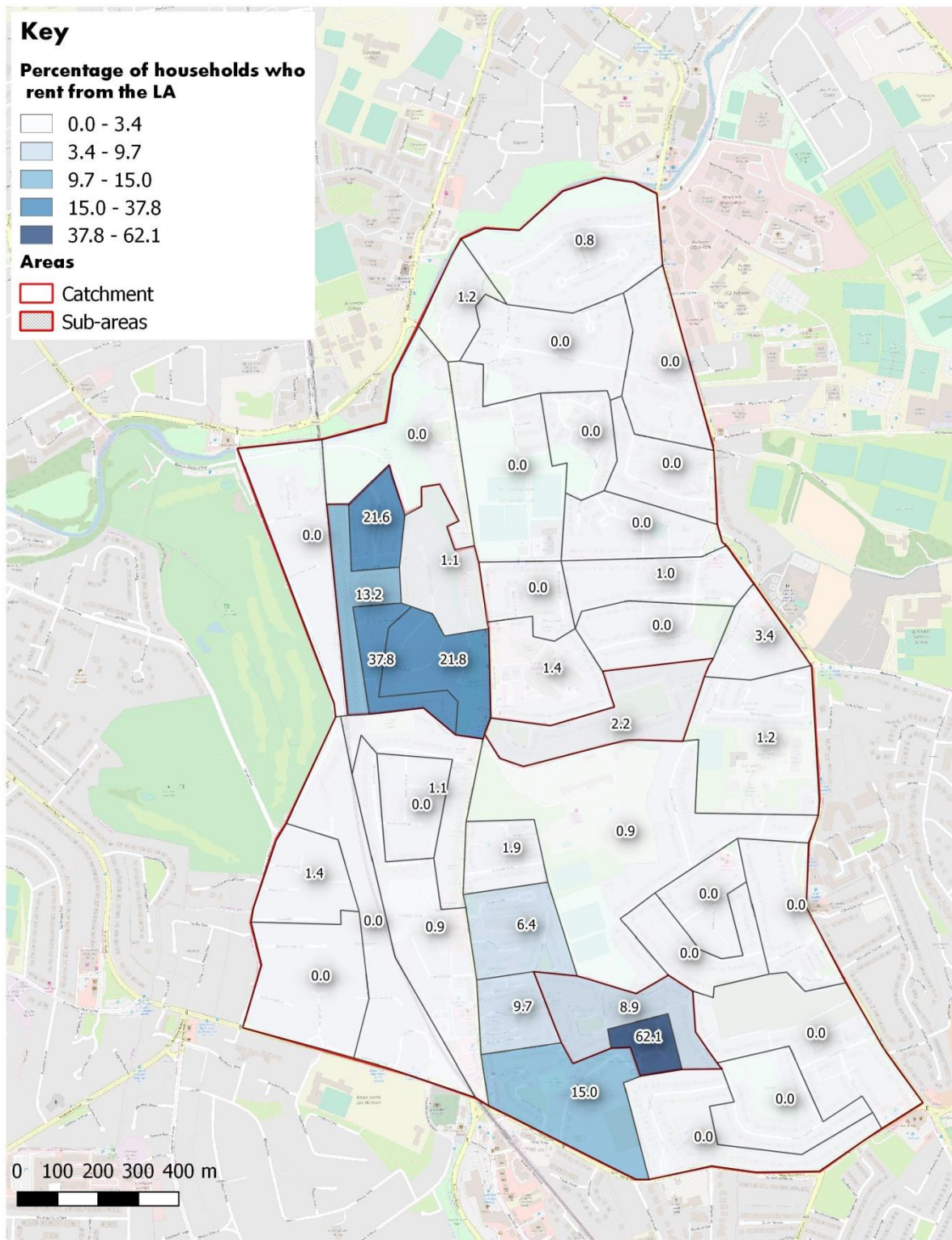
The occupancy status of the catchment area is almost 90%, with 5% of dwellings vacant.

Some 86% of all households are based in houses and bungalows, with the remaining 14% of households living in flats and apartments.

Two thirds of all households in the catchment area were built before 1980. A further 25% have been built in the years up to 2010. Only 37 houses/ bungalows/ flats or apartment have been added since 2011.

**Figure 5.13: Percentage of households which rent from the Local Authority from Census 2016 for each small area within the catchment and sub-areas.**

Source: CSO, OSM Contributors. CRS: 2157. Map by Eoin O'Mahony, UCD



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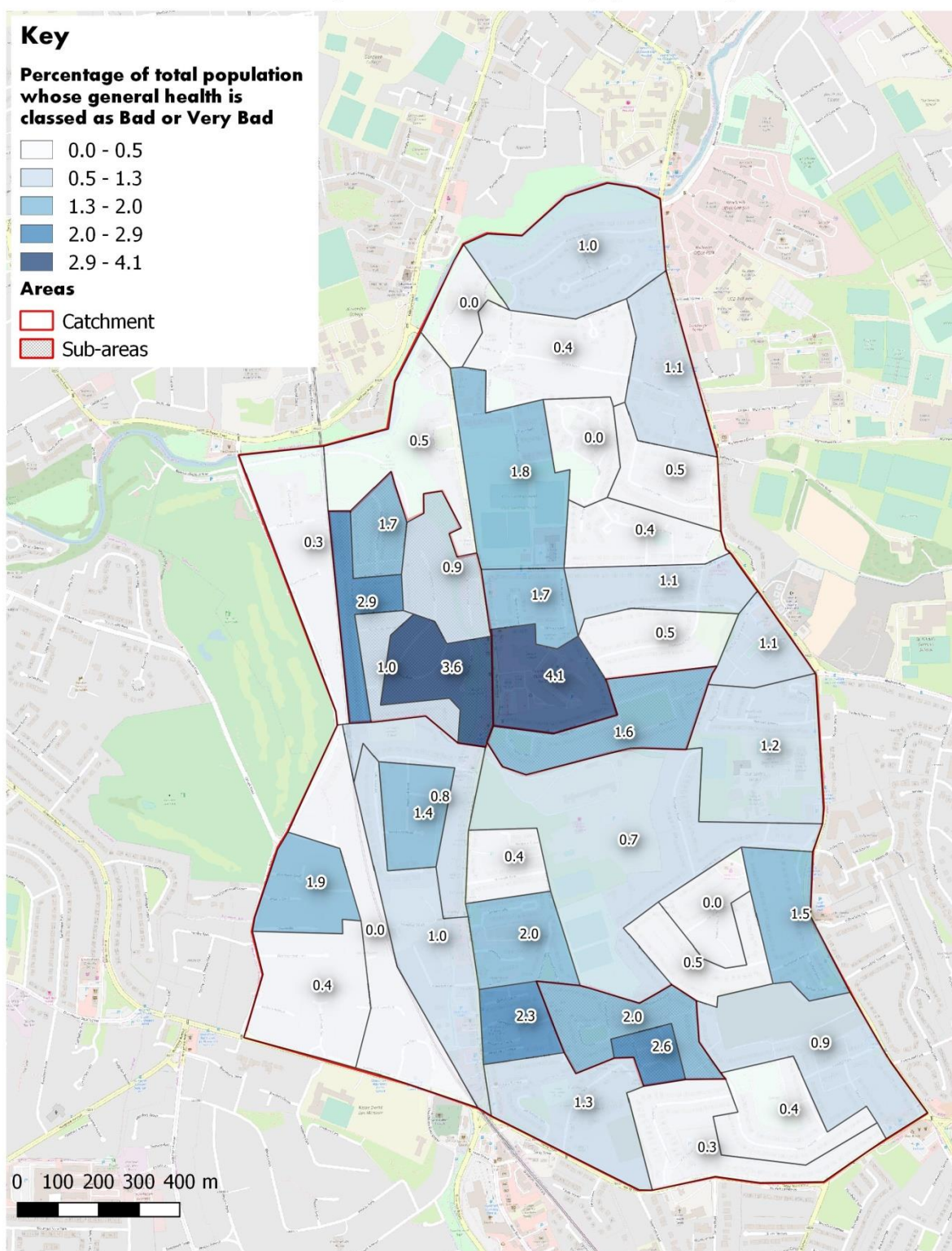
## HEALTH AND DISABILITY

There are 1297 people living in the catchment area who were recorded in the Census as having a disability. Of these, some 688 are female and 609 are male. This represents a 12.5% proportion of people with disability as per the overall population, exactly corresponding to the proportion for the county. However in some of smaller areas and estates of Rosemount, Mulvey and Columbanus, the proportion of people with a disability increases to over 20% and up to 25% in one area.

The census also included a question on the focus of health. While the majority of people within the catchment area classified that they were in good health, there were certain areas within the catchment area, where residents classified that they were dealing with significant issues relating to their health. Figure 5.14 presents an overview of how people classified their health across the catchment area.

**Figure 5.14: Percentage of total population whose general health is classed as Bad or Very Bad from Census 2016 for each small area within the catchment and sub-areas.**

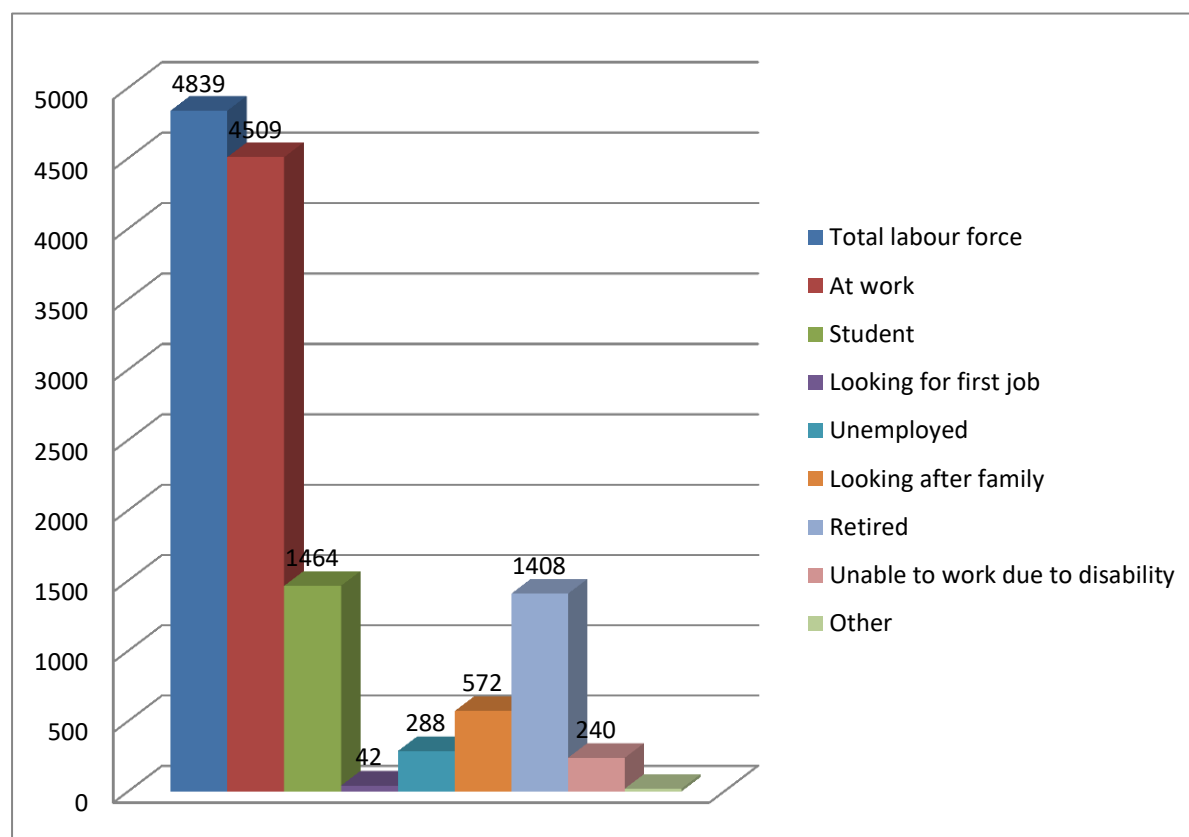
Source: CSO, OSM Contributors. CRS: 2157. Map by Eoin O'Mahony, UCD



## WORK AND OCCUPATIONS

The Census asks about the economic and labour market status of each household member aged over 15. The total labour force participation rate in the catchment area at 56% was slightly lower than that of Dun Laoghaire Rathdown at 58.2% and the state at 61.4%. The figure below gives a breakdown of the make-up of the labour force in the area.

FIGURE 3: TOTAL LABOUR FORCE CONSTITUENTS



Almost 53% were at work, compared to 50% in the 2011 Census. In some of the more affluent small areas, the figure at work increases to up to 67%. While in the more disadvantaged areas, it drops to 44.7%. The average numbers who were unemployed had dropped from 9% to 6%. Again, this figure drops below 1% in some of the small areas and climbs to over 10% in other areas. The highest levels of unemployment were in small areas of Columbanus and Rosemount.

The numbers of students had stayed at a similar level of 17-18%. However, the proportion of students living in Clonskeagh was higher at 20% to 22%, and as high as 28% in one small area in Clonskeagh-Windy Arbour. The proportion of students in Clonskeagh-Farranboley was 11% with one small area having just 2.9% of students.

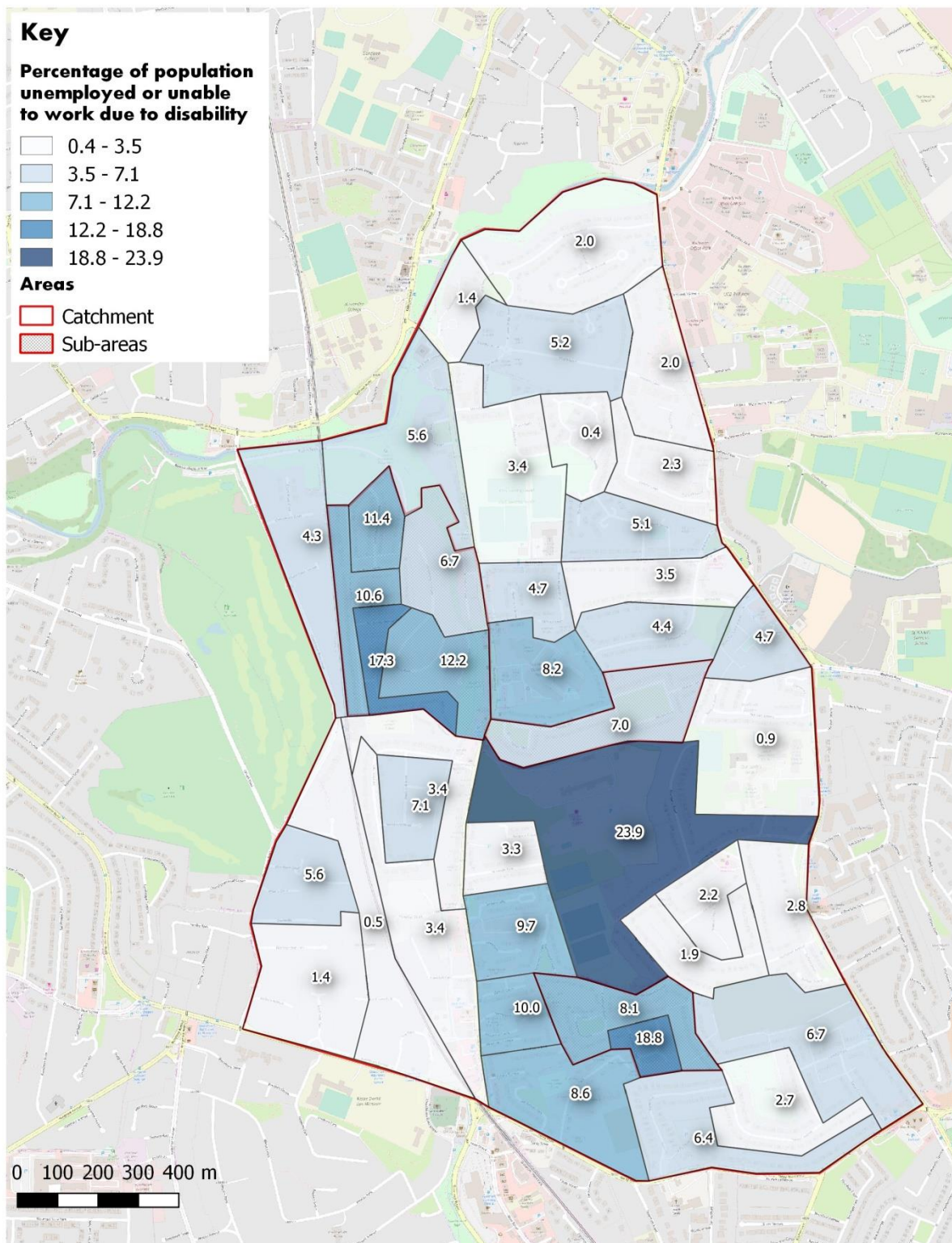
Those in retirement have increased from 15% in 2011 to 16.5% in 2016, with Churchtown-Woodlawn and Dundrum-Taney having the highest levels of retirees at 19-20%. The highest levels of retirees reached 29% in Dundrum.

Some 2.8% of people indicated that they were unable to work due to permanent sickness or disability. Figure 5.11 overleaf illustrates the concentration of people who are affected by disability

across the catchment area. The largest individual cluster (23.9% in the centre of the area) covers the grounds of the Central Mental Hospital, accounting for the high figure.

**Figure 5.11: Percentage of population unemployed or unable to work due to disability from Census 2016 for each small area within the catchment and sub-areas.**

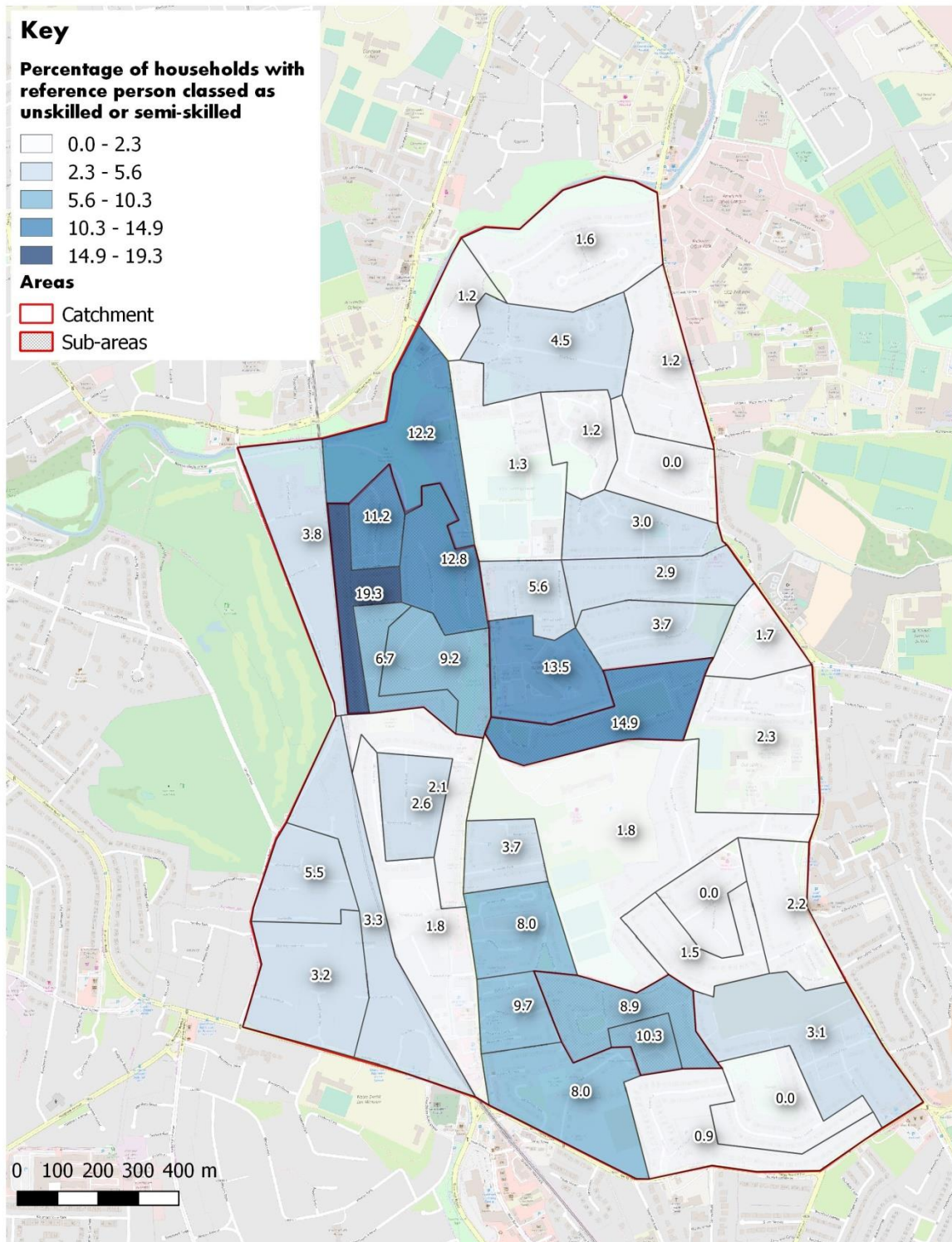
Source: CSO, OSM Contributors. CRS: 2157. Map by Eoin O'Mahony, UCD



The Census form also asks respondents to indicate their social class. Of those who stated their occupation, some 57% were either professional workers or managerial and technical. Some 5.8% of households were either semi-skilled or unskilled. Figure 5.12 below illustrates the spread of these households across the catchment area.

**Figure 5.12: Percentage of households with reference person classed as unskilled or semi-skilled from Census 2016 for each small area within the catchment and sub-areas.**

Source: CSO, OSM Contributors. CRS: 2157. Map by Eoin O'Mahony, UCD



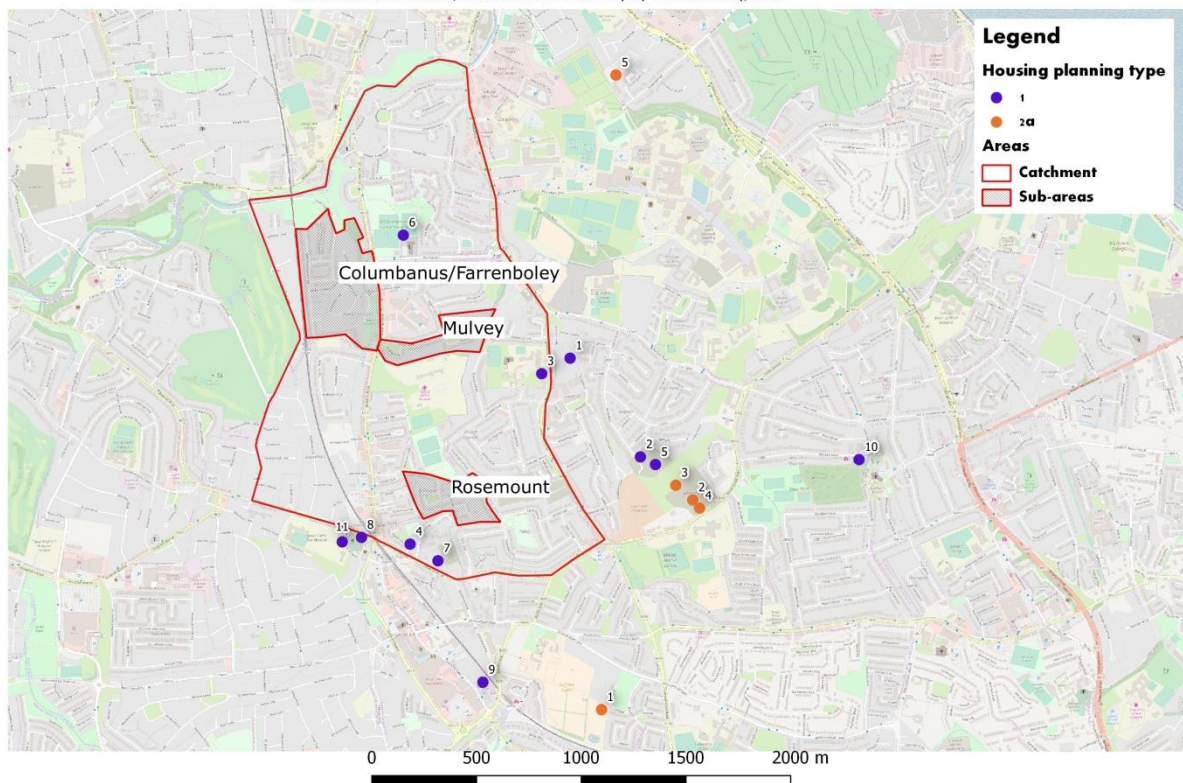
## 2.3 FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS IN THE CATCHMENT AREA

This section examines the nature and extent of ongoing and future residential developments within the catchment area and surrounding areas. This information is derived from the County Council's returns to the regional 'Housing Task Force' process, which captures residential developments of 10 units or more. This information dates from Quarter 3 of 2016. Figure 6 below indicates residential developments with a live planning permission – some of these sites are currently under construction. There are currently live planning permissions for a total of 817 residential dwellings in the area, of which 289 are under construction. These “Tier 1” sites are marked in purple.

The map also shows “Tier 2A” sites – developments that are currently in the system, whether under consideration by Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown or An Bord Pleanála. There are developments comprising 152 residential units in this category. These are marked in yellow.

**Figure 6: map fo the catchment area, sub-areas a the type of housing planning.**

Source: OSM Contributors, DLRCoCo. CRS: 2157. Map by Eoin O'Mahony, UCD.



The Tier 1 references in the map are presented in the following table.

TABLE 12: REFERENCE DETAILS FOR MAP OF TIER 1 HOUSING SITES

Map Reference Number	Planning Ref. No.	Planning Permission	Units Completed to Date	Units Under Construction	Units Permitted But Not Commenced
1	D06A/1510/E D14A/001	202	89	113	0
2	D16A/0487 D15A/0850	75	0	46	29
3	D15A/0199 D11A/059	48	25	23	0
4	D14A/0461	13	8	5	0
5	D13A/0689	88	0	48	40
6	D15A/0191	54	0	54	0
7	D13A/0490	30	0	0	30
8	D15A/0081	269	0	0	269
9	D15A/0405	108	0	0	108
10	D15A/0121	48	0	0	48
11	D16A/0723	4	0	0	4
		939	122	289	528

The following table indicates the level of planning that is being sought in the five Tier 2 developments.

TABLE 13: REFERENCE DETAILS FOR MAP OF TIER 2 HOUSING SITES

Map Reference Number	Planning Ref. No.	No. of houses	No. of Apts	No. of proposed dwelling units
1	D16A/0818	0	120	120
2	D16A/0821	0	10	10
3	D16A/0950	0	0	0
4	D16A/0960	3	18	21
5	D16A/0987	0	1	1
		3	149	152

In relation to other residential and non-residential developments in the area, the key focal points would be Dundrum Town Centre (Phase II), the relocation of the Central Mental Hospital to Portrane (and Land Development Agency plan for 1500 new homes on the site) and the UCD masterplan. The planning permission for **Dundrum Town Centre (Phase II)** was originally granted in 2009 for 36,000sq.m of retail/hotel/entertainment/residential (40 units)/civic uses. This permission has expired and a new application will most likely be submitted in the medium term, possibly for a scheme incorporating a larger residential component.

While it is not envisaged that the **National Forensic Mental Health Service (NFMHS)** complex will be in operation until 2020, this will then free up the current Central Mental Hospital site. The current

Dundrum site has long been recognized as a new potential housing site. The Land Development Agency has recently announced that the 35 acres would allow for 1500 new homes to be built.

The **UCD Masterplan**<sup>8</sup> has been published and includes proposals within its Estates Strategy to increase the number of student accommodation bed spaces on campus from approximately 3000 to 6000.

In summary, between those units already approved and under construction (817, with a further 122 already completed), those in the pipeline (152), the potential 1500 units planned by the Land Development Agency for the CMH site, there are almost 2500 new residential units to be added to the catchment area. Currently there are 3857 households with 10200 persons living in the catchment area. By increasing the number of dwellings and bed spaces as per current known development plans, in the short to medium term, there is the potential that the population of these electoral divisions will increase by a minimum of 50% or up to 5000 persons.

## 2.4 POLICY CONTEXT AND DEVELOPMENT PLANS

As highlighted above, the catchment area under this study does not form a distinct area within Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council's planning framework. This presents evident challenges in locating the catchment area within any specific actions or goals of any local or county level plans.

While all strategy documents are in some way relevant in terms of their general focus on and vision for the wider community, as well as in relation to their thematic concerns regarding promoting increased levels of social inclusion and civic engagement, the specific bounded catchment area is not currently being served by a dedicated plan that focuses on the level and extent of supports necessary into the short term and longer term future.

This section reviews local plans and strategies to examine where any concrete links are made to our research focus. The following table presents a summary of such plans. Some key sections of the County Development Plan are presented in relation to the local vision. Where relevant references are noted, further detail is provided, specifically in relation to the Goatstown LAP and the proposed Dundrum LAP.

Further analysis will be necessary as the Land Development Agency plans for the site of the Central Mental Hospital become clearer. The plan to construct 1500 residential units within the catchment area will have considerable implications for the future growth of the community and the corresponding needs of all user groups.

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<sup>8</sup> <https://www.ucd.ie/campusdevelopment/campusdevelopment/>.

**TABLE 14: SUMMARY OF POLICIES AND RELEVANCE TO CATCHMENT AREA**

Name of Plan	Relevance to Catchment Area?	Specific Reference?
<b>Local Economic and Community Plan for Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown 2016-2021</b>	Plan sets out objectives and actions for the county to a) promote and support economic development and b) promote and support local and community development by itself and in partnership with other economic and community development stakeholders. Series of objectives and actions that are closely aligned with the provision of community services across all local settings in the County	<b>No</b> explicit mention of catchment area as a specific target or focus of any one action.
<b>Dún Laoghaire Rathdown Age Friendly Strategy 2016-2020</b>	Age profile of catchment area is higher than County average, so plan has some importance for older people in the area. As with LECP there are relevant actions within the Age Friendly Strategy, especially those concerned with social participation, social inclusion and civic engagement.	<b>No</b> specific reference or naming of area
<b>Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Library Development Plan 2016 - 2020</b>	Library Strategy involves actions to promote and support the delivery of the library programmes, such as provision of lifelong learning opportunities, after school programmes and community education programmes.	<b>No</b> specific reference or naming of area
<b>Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council Arts Development Plan 2016 2022</b>	Arts Development Plan will allow for public, artists and other partners to work together to grow opportunities for engaging with the arts in the County. The outreach dimension of many named actions will involve actions being targeted at different communities across the County.	<b>No</b> specific reference or naming of area
<b>Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Development Plan 2016-2022</b>	Section 7 of the CDP is the Community Strategy, containing clear commitments with regard to “the development, improvement and provision of a wide range of community facilities distributed in an equitable manner throughout the County”. These commitments name importance of facilities as “essential component in designing for sustainable communities”.  Section 1 of the CDP presents the Strategic Overview. Within this, Section 1.3 focuses on “Development Areas and Regeneration”. Two Local Area Plans are named that deal with Goatstown and Dundrum, both with link to catchment area.  Section 9 of the CDP is a package of Specific Local Objectives, containing a series that are named in relation to Dundrum/Clonskeagh.	<b>Yes</b> , references in Section 1 to the a) Goatstown Local Area Plan b) Proposed Dundrum Local Area Plan  Reference also to c) Development of Rosemount Court in Section 9

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## OVERVIEW OF COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The most relevant section of the County Development Plan (CDP) is the Community Strategy. In this section, the plan notes that:

“Successful and inclusive planning is about promoting the development of balanced and sustainable communities where the needs of the community are properly catered for in terms of the provision of necessary services and facilities which are readily accessible. Fostering a sense of community and delivery of quality services and facilities that are responsive to the identified needs of local communities is a key factor in the enhancement and development of ‘quality of life.’”

This vision and commitment to the delivery of additional social and community infrastructure by the local authority is an important cornerstone of the CDP. The manner in which community infrastructure is planned, designed and then built is evidently very relevant to this study.

The promotion of social inclusion is one of the overall goals of the CDP. Another important quote from the plan relates to the commitment of the council to the provision of community facilities to ensure social inclusion.

“It is Council policy to support the development, improvement and provision of a wide range of community facilities distributed in an equitable manner throughout the County.”

A number of other key commitments contained within the CDP (Policy SIC6) include:

- Community facilities should be located within, or close to, neighbourhood centres and be well served by public transport.
- Facilities which cater for social and community needs are an essential component in designing for sustainable communities.
- Meeting halls and community centres, along with ... community playgrounds, facilities for older and disabled people... provide a communal resource through which the residents of a neighbourhood can gain information, education, medical or welfare assistance and social contact.
- The Council will endeavour to ensure that an appropriate range of community facilities is provided across the County, to ensure that the vitality and sustainability of residential neighbourhoods in Dún Laoghaire–Rathdown is fostered.
- In designing for new facilities it is essential to ensure that they are adaptable over time to meet the changing needs of the population and to provide potential for maximising their dual usage during evenings/weekends/school holidays.
- When considering proposals for development, the Planning Authority may take into account benefits to the public in the form of community facilities.
- Where new social and community facilities are being retrofitted into established neighbourhoods, the issue of potential adverse impacts on residential amenity and increased pressures on limited on-street car parking spaces will require to be addressed in a sensitive manner.
- The Council will also support improvements to and/ or redevelopment of existing community facilities throughout the County as appropriate.

In relation to this study, the County Development Plan provides clear support in principle for the development of a community facility, where these principles can be met.

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## **SPECIFIC LOCAL OBJECTIVES WITHIN THE COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

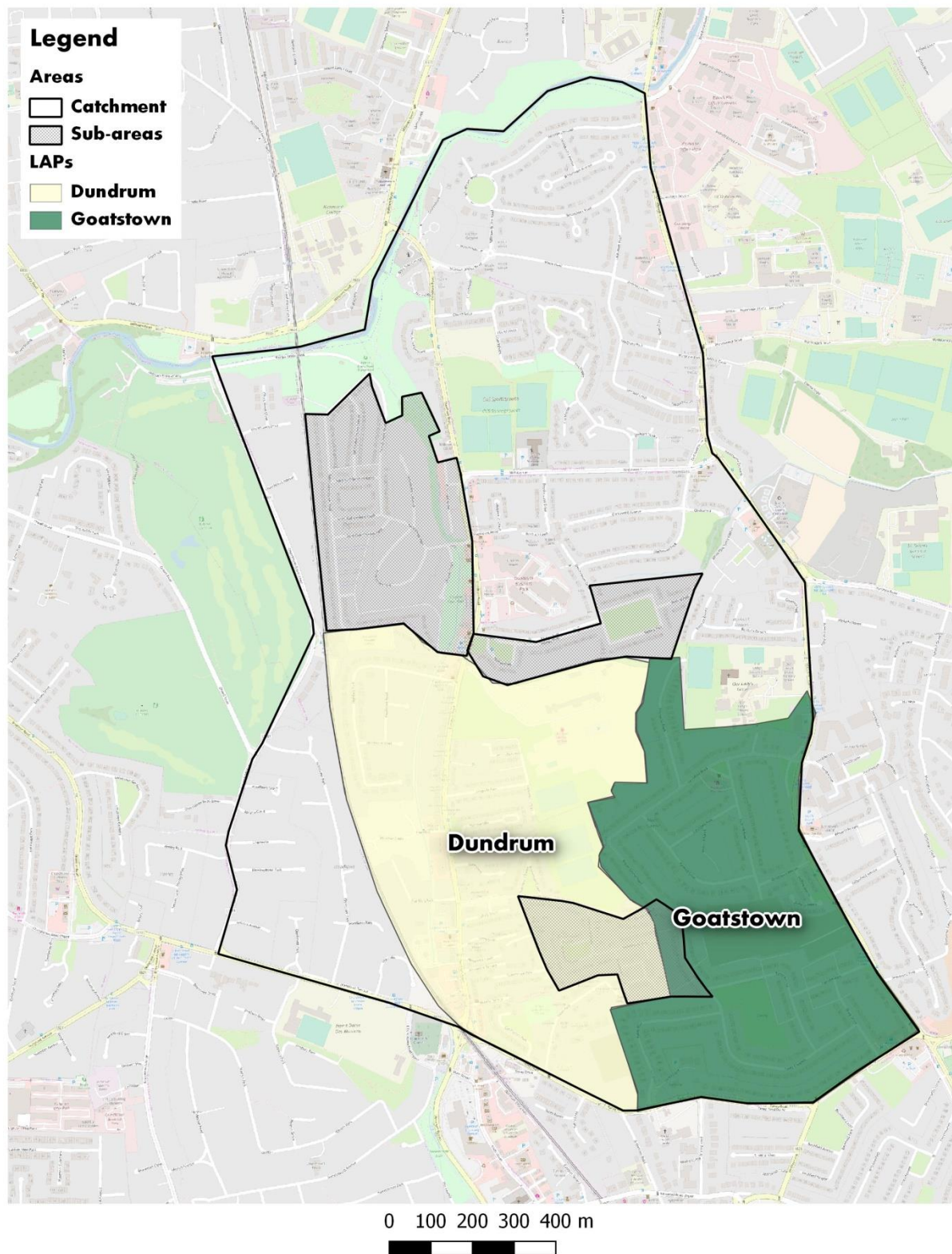
A number of Specific Local Objectives within the County Development Plan pertain to the catchment area. As well as spanning the two local electoral areas of Dundrum and Stillorgan, the catchment area falls within the remit of different proposed and extant Local Area Plans, namely those of Dundrum and Goatstown. A larger part of the catchment area is not covered by any dedicated plan. Specific Local Objectives are named in relation to the delivery of the Goatstown LAP and the preparation of the Dundrum LAP. A further objective is named in relation to the development of Rosemount Court.

The following map highlights how these plans cross our catchment area. It should be noted that the Goatstown LAP boundary extends further to the east and south of the catchment area, and the proposed Dundrum LAP boundary extends further to the south. Only the parts of these areas that fall within the catchment area are shown.

The background and rationale to the specific local objectives are then described. Their connection to the catchment area and how the implementation of these objectives may affect the area are analysed.

**Figure 7: Map of the LAPs within the catchment area and sub-areas.**

Source: DLRCoCo. CRS: 2157. Map by Eoin O'Mahony, UCD.



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## **GOATSTOWN LOCAL AREA PLAN**

The Goatstown Local Area Plan was adopted in April 2012 and the current CDP commits to implementing and developing the lands in Goatstown in accordance with this plan as Specific Local Objective No: 2. The Plan area includes a section of the south east area of the catchment area under consideration in this study. The Goatstown Plan area incorporates parts of five Electoral Divisions– Clonskeagh-Roebuck, Dundrum-Taney, Dundrum-Kilmacud, Stillorgan-Deerpark and a very small portion of Clonskeagh-Windy Arbour. The population according to the Plan is about 4,400.

The overlap between the Goatstown Plan boundary and this study's catchment is quite minimal, with at most 15%-20% of a geographic area or population being covered by both catchment areas.

The plan notes that the collective boundaries of these Electoral Divisions extend well beyond the Plan area boundary itself.

The plan examines the extent to which there are a proportionate and sustainable level of community and social facilities for the community. In looking to community facilities, the plan indicates:

“Community facilities incorporate a range of uses which are open to all members of the community and which generally seek to enhance the overall quality of life within a given area. In addition to educational facilities, community facilities also normally include such uses as libraries, swimming pools and community centres.

Taney Parish Centre, located on Taney Road, is a valuable, well-used community asset providing a range of facilities and activities for all sectors of the community – both young and old. In addition to providing a range of formal / structured classes the centre caters for more informal meetings, training sessions and celebratory events.

A resource centre was approved as part of the Goatstown Close local authority residential development. However, at the request of the local community, the centre was not constructed. While there is no library specifically within the Plan area there are Council libraries located close by in Dundrum and Stillorgan.

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## **PROPOSED DUNDRUM LOCAL AREA PLAN**

Specific Local Objective No: 134 of the 2016-2022 Dun Laoghaire - Rathdown County Development Plan commits to the preparation of a Local Area Plan (LAP) for Dundrum. The south-central portion of the Study Catchment area includes lands that are shown within the boundary of this future LAP.

This takes in the south west of the catchment area, including the Rosemount Small Areas of the Dundrum-Taney Electoral Division and two small areas in each of the Churchtown-Woodlawn and Clonskeagh-Windy Arbour. Fewer than 2,500 people live in the overlapping area, representing about 25% of the total population of the catchment area.

The 2016-2022 County Development Plan states that the LAP to be prepared for Dundrum will include, inter alia:

- Implementation of the environmental improvement scheme for the Main Street.
- The comprehensive redevelopment of the environs of the William Dargan Bridge undercroft, Usher House and Waldemar Terrace.

- The provision of a pedestrian-friendly and traffic-calmed environment along the Main Street, with particular care being paid to paving materials, modern public lighting, hard and soft landscaping and street art.
- The planned provision of significant additional off-street and underground car parking provision to facilitate the complete removal of surface parking from the Main Street, immediately connected streets and surrounding residential areas.
- The provision of a wide range of employment, leisure, entertainment, cultural, hotel and restaurant uses in the Town Centre (MTC) to create activity and enliven.
- The provision of additional residential uses in Dundrum Town Centre (MTC) including 'Living Over the Shop' and stand-alone developments including schemes for the elderly.
- The conservation, preservation and re-use of historic and interesting buildings, including groups or block of such buildings, like existing terraces. These form an established part of the town and contribute to its overall character.
- The reinstatement and strengthening of the urban fabric along the Main Street and the Sandyford Road – including infilling gap sites where appropriate.
- The development of a comprehensive pedestrian walkway network connecting and linking key destinations – including the Dundrum Town Centre (Shopping Centre) the Dundrum and Balally Luas stops, Main Street/Sandyford Road, Sweetmount Park and a series of internal Town Squares.

The Planning Authority has committed itself to the delivery of the LAP for Dundrum, taking into account resources available to advance matters. While the proposed LAP does not currently make specific reference or proposals to the development of any dedicated community facility, guidelines from the Planning and Development Act and from DECLG<sup>9</sup> ask that the issue of community facilities and amenities is addressed in the development of the plan.

The County Development Plan also has specific local objective with regard to the future development of the Dundrum Town Centre, with Objective 149 stating:

“Any future redevelopment of Dundrum Village Centre (Phase II) shall provide for and retain a range of complementary non-retail uses including - but not limited to - employment, restaurant, leisure, entertainment, cultural, community and civic uses - to supplement that already provided for within the wider Dundrum Town Centre.”

If the proposed Dundrum LAP is adopted in line with this local objective, there would be clear policy support for integrating community uses within the Major Town Centre zoned lands of Dundrum Town Centre. If the Dundrum LAP proposes a dedicated community facility to meet this objective, this would be of significant benefit to the population of the catchment area. Furthermore if such a development was to be included within the LAP, it would be important that the needs of the wider area (including the population living outside of the LAP boundary) would be included in any proposed planning phase.

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<sup>9</sup> Section 19 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) sets out the content for LAPs, including "detail on community facilities and amenities", and this subject area is also covered in the "Local Area Plans - Guidelines for Planning Authorities" from the DECLG in June 2013.

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## DEVELOPMENT OF ROSEMOUNT COURT

Specific Local Objective No: 92 of the 2016-2022 Dun Laoghaire - Rathdown County Development Plan commits to the redevelopment of the former flats site Rosemount Court as part of the Council's Housing Programme.

The redevelopment of the former flats site at Rosemount Court has been commenced as part of the Council's Housing Programme and as a commitment within the CDP. This will allow for some additional 44 units of social housing in the local community.

"The proposed development provides for forty four residential units at a density of forty nine units per hectare with a mix of dwelling types- 27 no. three bed; 4 no. two bed; 1 no. four bed; and 12 no. one-beds, with a central green amenity space and two shared surface 'home-zone' areas. Of the forty four units seventy four percent are houses and twenty six percent are apartments."<sup>10</sup>

The original flat complex had contained some 84 flats over three five-storey blocks. There was also a community facility within the complex, from which a community based project worked. This project worked with the wider Rosemount catchment area. Classes were provided for local people to support back to education and back to work initiatives. After school programmes were provided to children from the community. Dundrum Youth Services also ran programmes from the facility for young people. Community workers were also employed within the Resource Centre here to provide information and support to members of the community. The Centre was run by a management committee made up of members of the local area.

This current development phase of the site goes back to 2004 when the National Building Agency began to look at redevelopment and refurbishment options. In 2007, an initial proposal was developed by Dun Laoghaire Rathdown Council for the redevelopment of Rosemount Court. Over this time, the flats were in poor material condition. This regeneration plan was also concerned with acting to prevent any further anti-social behaviour that was happening in the flat complex.

A public consultation exercise was undertaken, where an Information booklet was produced outlining options for the proposed development. One of these options called for the complete demolition of the three apartment blocks and the building of new units.<sup>11</sup> An extra feature of this option was a proposal for a "Resource Centre and Playground: "A new resource centre and playground is also proposed at the entry to Rosemount Way. It is anticipated that this will be a building of civic quality at the heart of the community".

The project brief for Rosemount was submitted to the Department of the Environment Heritage and Local Government in April 2008 and sought approval to proceed. Funding was to be from the annual capital allocation for Housing, and would be recouped from the Department. The Council included Rosemount Court in its projections to the Department for funding.<sup>12</sup>

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10 Minutes from meeting of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council, 8th June, 2015- Report on Proposed Housing Development at Rosemount Court, Dundrum, Dublin 14

11 Minutes of the Dundrum Environment, Housing and Culture, Community Development &

Amenities Area Committee held in the Dundrum Local Office on Monday, 1 October 2007 at 5.00 pm

12 Dundrum Area Committee (Municipal Services Business) Monday, 6th October, 2008 5.00 pm

However, as the economic climate became less favourable, the Council was unable to obtain the funding to allow the Council to proceed with the proposal.

The original flat complex was demolished in 2011. The new plan for Rosemount Court was approved in 2015 and the development went ahead without the option of a resource centre and playground.

When completed and re-tenanted, a further 100 extra residents will be living in the area.

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## **UCD STRATEGIC CAMPUS DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

The County Development Plan also has specific objectives with regard to the future development of UCD, most specifically in Objective 1, where the Council makes a commitment to “facilitate, support and enhance the development of University College Dublin including all associated and supporting facilities. A range of uses will be facilitated on Belfield campus lands to encourage and foster strong links between education, community and the business sector in the County.”

The current UCD Strategic Campus Development Plan 2016-2021-2026<sup>13</sup> is cognisant of this commitment from the County Development Plan. In its own plan, UCD sets out a ten year development framework for the Belfield Campus. The plan focuses on providing the physical infrastructure necessary for the provision of new facilities in relation to education, research, student residences, sports and recreation. The plan includes the development of new student residences to allow for a further 3000 students.

The plan also sets out to promote engagement with local communities. This will involve:

“Initiatives to enhance community engagement in the immediate environs of the campus will be fostered through access to the playing pitches, the sculptural art trail and the woodland walks for local clubs, families and visitors, in addition to public access to cultural exhibitions, seminars, the UCD cinema and theatre events.”

The plan indicates that the University sees itself as continuing in its cultural contribution to the wider area through the promotion of education, research and development, sporting and recreational activities. “This will continue with the development of activities on campus which engage with the surrounding residential and economic communities.”

While the Campus plan is focused on physical infrastructural concerns, there are other University programmes that promote a meaningful connection with the wider area outside the campus. “UCD in the Community” is a specific initiative that was established to “support and promote civic engagement in all forms, shapes and sizes”. The initiative works to build and strengthen relationships with the community with a focus on contributing to positive and sustainable social outcomes. An important strand of this work involves developing and promoting a wide range of volunteering opportunities for the student body. At a recent Volunteers Fair, hosted by the University, a number of local community based organisations were invited to participate and recruit volunteers for their programmes.

Any development within the UCD campus to the north-east of our catchment area may also have some bearing on the community.

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<sup>13</sup> The full plan is available: <http://www.ucd.ie/t4cms/UCD16036-Campus-Development-online.pdf>

## 2.5 SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE AND ANALYSIS

This section reviews the main evidential points with regard to the community profile and looks to address the following questions:

- What are the key demographic features of the catchment area?
- What are the implications of this community profile?
- How will new future developments affect the community?
- How will any local plans affect the community in the short term and more longer term?

### 1. What are the key demographic features of the catchment area?

The catchment area covers a **quite mixed and diverse area**. Across the five adjoining electoral divisions and within them, there are differences in the social mix. The population has remained at a stable and steady level of about 10000 people over the last 15 years. The age profile of the area is similar to that of the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County, with both a **large youth population**, as well as a **sizeable number of older retired people**.

The population is **very much made up of people born in Ireland**, with very few people from outside the EU28 living here. The vast majority identify as “white Irish” or “white other”, with very low numbers of Irish Travellers living in the area.

Some 96% of families are 5 persons or less. Of the 2428 families living in the catchment area, some 336 are one parent families. Most **one parent families are centred in certain housing estates**, namely Mulvey, Rosemount and Farrenboley/Columbanus.

The housing stock has been built up over the last 100 years, with **very little new housing** being developed since 2011. Some 70% are owned outright or with a mortgage, while 27% are in the rental sector. Proximity to UCD means that some of the catchment area has **large numbers of students in rental properties**. Most households renting from the local authority are also based in these three housing estates.

Levels of **unemployment** have dropped from 9% in 2011 to 6% in the 2016 Census. Again, there are concentrations of more unemployed people in these same three housing estates, where the rate increases to 12%. The numbers of **retired people** in the area has increased to 16.5%.

Almost 60% of people identify themselves within the professional or managerial classes, with the largest occupational blocks in the professional and associate professional and technical occupations. This makes up over half of all respondents.

Levels of educational achievement are very high. Although as well as having large numbers of people who have progressed far within the education system, there are also areas where many people have ceased their education without any qualifications, concentrated in the small areas of Mulvey, Rosemount and Farrenboley/Columbanus.

While more people now have the Internet in their homes since the last Census, there are still almost 20% of households without a computer. Some 14% of households do not have a car.

## 2. What are the implications of this community profile?

The location of the catchment area is very close to UCD, therefore this area will remain a very desirable location for third level student rental accommodation. There are three specific estates where originally all houses were developed by the local authority. Many of the houses in these estates remain rented from the Council. These estates demonstrate the only concentrated pockets of disadvantage within the catchment area. Here, there are much higher levels of one parent families, with higher levels of unemployment and lower levels of educational qualifications. There are also larger numbers of younger children in these areas. These areas have also been specifically named within the current Southside Partnership Plan for 2016-2018 as target areas for their work, due to the numbers of people, who are experiencing poverty and social exclusion.

The remaining areas and estates of the catchment area are considered to be affluent according to demographic analysis that examines deprivation and affluence.<sup>14</sup> As with a trend in the county, the lower labour force participation rate can be linked to the growing numbers of retired people. Some of the small areas in the catchment area have some of the highest levels of older people in the county and nationally. The following table highlights the key demographic features of the area.

TABLE 15: KEY DEMOGRAPHIC FEATURES OF THE AREA

Age	Numbers	Proportion	Specific challenges	Future needs
Children (0-9 years)	1264	12.2%	Lack of childcare places; cost of childcare places. Need for playground facilities in area.	Local provision of pre-school and crèche facilities and other childcare options
Young people (10-18)	968	9.4%	Lack of youth services (including after school; study spaces; drop ins; targeted programmes) to address current needs	As new developments come on stream, there will be increased pressure on any existing services, including sports and leisure activities.
Students / young adults (19-24)	1234	11.9%	Concentration in areas closer to UCD. Costs of student accommodation and increased levels of rent.	More dedicated student accommodation. Access to volunteering opportunities and community engagement.
Adults (25-64)	5319	51.3%	Large numbers of adults are in employment, there are many out of work or at home with young families.	Access to social networks, community events, social or sporting clubs for family members.
Older Adults (over 65)	1587	15.3%	Access to social outlets and activity based groups	Older population will increase as proportion
Total	10372	100%	An older community, but also many families with children. Concentration of young adults and students.	Need for supports for older people will increase, as will demand for childcare and school places. Likewise for family supports as new

<sup>14</sup> The Pobal HP Deprivation Index is the main index used in Ireland and applied by several government departments, state and semi-state agencies, voluntary and non-governmental organisations. Its value derives from the way in which deprivation indices can be used to facilitate the development of evidence-based policies, leading to greater efficiency in service delivery. See Appendix 1 for map of catchment area, colour coded by levels of affluence-deprivation.

developments come on stream.

What does this mean for the various user groups within the community? What are their current and future need and are these groups clustered in any specific geographic areas within the community?

TABLE 16: KEY SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND AGE FACTORS FOR CATCHMENT AREA

Socio-economic profile	Numbers	Proportion	Priority Location	Specific challenges	Future need
People with a disability	1297	12.5%	Increases to 20-25% of population in certain more deprived areas	Accessible spaces, social and health peer support groups	As population ages, will be greater numbers requiring more disability services
Unemployed people	1450	6%	Increases to 12-15% in deprived areas	Access to community-based back to work schemes, targeted responses for areas of need	New building and developments locally may bring new job opportunities, maintain focus on areas of need
People at work	4509	53%	Increases to over 65% in some more affluent areas, while as low as 43% in more deprived areas.	Access to social groups and opportunities for evening classes for lifelong learning, focus on transport links and commuting pressures	Maintain focus on whether new developments are leading to local jobs becoming available; focus on commuting time pressures
One parent families	336 households	9%	Increases to 21% in Columbanus	Family supports for children and parents to be targeted at areas where need is evident	Intensive supports to be targeted at pre-school children and through early years.
One person households	967 households	25%	Linked to retirement levels	Ensure focus on possible social isolation and	Outreach efforts and community based home-help type projects to be organised
Retired people	1408	15.9%	Increases to 30% in some small areas	Range of social groups and classes to be targeted, from bridge to bingo, as well as volunteering opportunities	Connections to be made between groups across the community, establishing network, where older people can articulate

concerns in structured manner.

Socio-economic profile	Numbers	Proportion	Priority Location	Specific challenges	Future need
Older people (aged over 70)	1145	11%	Lower levels in areas closer to UCD	Ensure that people feel connected to community and not isolated and insecure	Develop outreach programmes and new opportunities for targeted physical activities
Students	1464	17%	Increases to 30-40% in those areas closer to UCD	Encourage opportunities for volunteering and educational supports for local young people (e.g. Coder Dojo)	Build more links between UCD and local communities through volunteering programmes
Married couples with children	1086 households	28%	Ranges from 10% in some areas to over 50% in more affluent areas	Examine supports required for flexible childcare	Examine range of family supports in terms of after school-based activities
People with poor educational qualifications	1844	28.6%	Up to 60% in some estates have left system before third level	Back to education and community education opportunities to be delivered	Develop connections with education and training providers and examine local connections with UCD

### 3. How will new future developments affect the community?

The catchment area is witnessing a number of potential growth areas, where new developments are being built and planned for. Should these plans be realised and residential units be built, the population of the catchment and surrounding area will witness considerable growth in the coming years, possibly adding up to 1000 new units in the short term and a similar number in the medium term.

These developments will continue to add to the social mix of the catchment area. While the majority of the new units will be developed and sold as private homes, up to 20% of the total units can be retained as social housing.

TABLE 17: FUTURE DEVELOPMENT PLANS

Development plans	New units	Numbers of new residents	Location	Future challenges for the community
Residential confirmed	939	Up to 3000	3 of the developments account for 61% of the units. The largest is for 269, adjacent to Notre Dame school.	Ensure that social mix is catered for. Provision of childcare and school places to be factored in.
Residential in planning	152 (149 apartments)	Up to 450	120 units are sought for the Green Acres Convent site	Work with local community groups to ensure that any pressures on local community infrastructure are examined, especially with regard to crèche and school facilities.

Should all planned developments proceed, by the time of the next census, there will be an increase in the number of households from 3857 to over 5000, with a corresponding increase in the population of 3000 people bringing the potential for the growth of the overall population of the area up to almost 13500.

In the medium term, other residential developments may go ahead in terms of Phase II of the Dundrum Town Centre and the potential increases in student accommodation places within UCD. It is unclear at the current time as to exactly the extent of these developments. The potential for up to 1,500 new homes on the site of the Central Mental Hospital, as identified by the Government's Land Development Agency, will potentially add considerably to the population of the area.

#### 4. How will any local plans affect the community in the short term and longer term?

As stated earlier, the catchment area does not correspond to any specific local planning boundaries. As well as spanning the two local electoral areas of Dundrum and Stillorgan, the catchment area falls within the remit of an extant and a proposed Local Area Plan, namely those of Goatstown and Dundrum. A larger part of the catchment area is not covered by any dedicated plan.

TABLE 18: LOCAL OBJECTIVES AS PER CDP

Specific Local Objectives from CDP	Number of people from Catchment Area affected	Impact of plan on those living in area	Future community needs arising from plan
Relating to Goatstown LAP	1500-2000	The aim is to create a distinctive and vibrant urban village, with focus on improving traffic flows. Limited development potential is available in the area, with the 88 units in Knockrabo the main source of new building.	The plan does not indicate a specific need for a new community facility. However, there is no dedicated community space in the plan boundaries.
Relating to Proposed Dundrum LAP	Up to 2500	<p>Main focus of the plan (that has yet to be adopted by DLRCoCo) relates to how best to manage the next phase of development associated with the Dundrum Town Centre expansion. A reference to a residential scheme for older people may offer some benefit to the community in the catchment area. Likewise new leisure and cultural elements may offer some new community spaces.</p> <p>SLO149 makes reference to the next phase development of the town centre to potentially include for community and civic uses within its plans.</p>	<p>As the plan has yet to be written up in detail and adopted by Council, it is only the overview that is available in the County Plan. This focus is therefore on how the Town Centre developments can be managed.</p> <p>While this specific objective relates to a site outside of the catchment area, the northern portion of the site borders on the southern boundary of the catchment.</p>
Relating to Rosemount Court Development	100	The proposed option to include a Community Facility was unable to proceed as Council was unable to obtain funding.	As these social housing units are re-tenanted, it will be important that any new community needs are catered for through local service provision, e.g. after school clubs, youth programmes, family support projects.

These plans do not make specific reference to the need for new community facilities within the catchment area, although there was a statement of intent for such a facility when the initial plans for the redevelopment of Rosemount were proposed.

Looking beyond these specific references to the catchment area, the more general strategy documents for the county are relevant in terms of their general focus on and vision for the wider community, as well as in relation to their thematic concerns regarding promoting increased levels of social inclusion and civic engagement.

The County Development is also clear on the principles of development of new facility:

- That a clear need is evident
- That it will be co-ordinated in relation to local neighbourhood centres
- That it is accessible with strong public transport links
- That it is run by local management bodies
- That all sustainability factors are taken into account, i.e. walking distance, close to areas of demand, where services are at capacity

The location of any new facility needs to clearly take account of these factors. The presence and positioning of neighbourhood centre zoning blocks within the catchment area are also important considerations. In the catchment area, these sites are typically where shops or public houses are located. While for the most part, these sites are privately held, the zoning objective may permit the location of a civic amenity or community or enterprise facility. These neighbourhood centres are considered an essential and sustainable amenity for residential areas. While the County Development Plan does not necessarily outline how such sites would be developed, it considers that they should be maintained and strengthened where necessary.

The specific local objective associated with the expansion of the Dundrum Town Centre into Phase II is also an important consideration for any future decisions regarding the location of a new community facility. This objective provides for a range of uses including those of a community and civic nature that will “supplement that already provided for within the wider Dundrum Town Centre”. While this proposal is to be considered in the framing of the Dundrum LAP, such a development would not necessarily be targeted at the specific needs of the catchment area, as the boundary of the LAP only takes a small section of the catchment into its plan. Should the boundary of the Dundrum LAP be extended to include more than one quarter of the catchment’s population (especially the estates of Farrenbole, Columbanus and Mulvey), this provision within SLO149 of the County Development Plan could be seen as critical in terms of addressing the needs of these communities.

### 3 COMMUNITY-BASED ACTIVITY- EVIDENCE AND ANALYSIS

Section 3 maps both the catchment area itself and the wider surrounding area in relation to relevant local community facilities and services. As well as mapping the location of each facility, this section details the range of groups and classes and other community-based services and programmes that are being delivered in these facilities and looks at overall usage and participation trends.

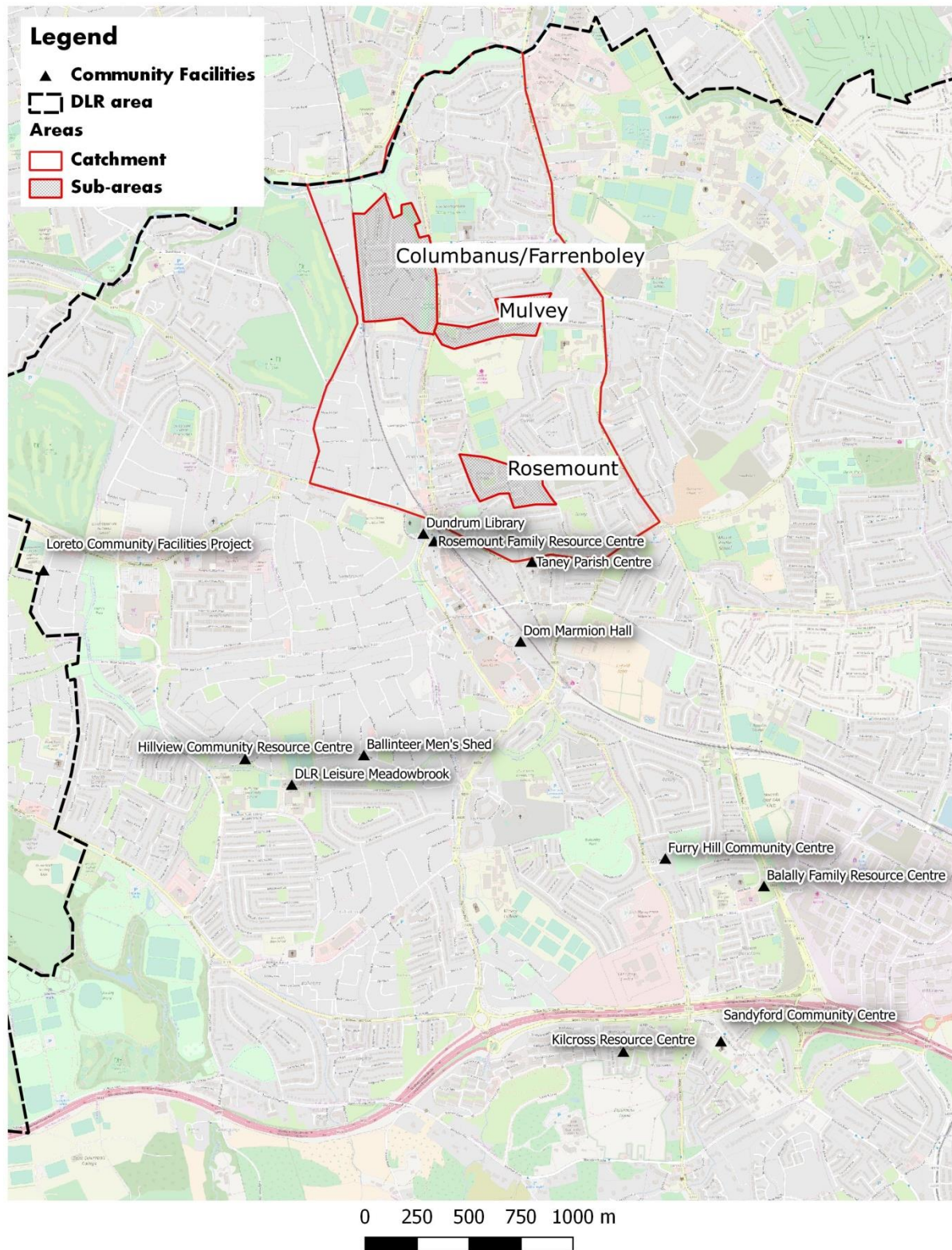
The activity base of each facility is then linked to the framework as described in Section 1, i.e. what are the functions for a community facility. This allows for analysis and for these facilities to be understood in relation to the level of overall provision of services through these existing facilities. This section includes analysis of the feedback from key stakeholders within the community regarding current and future capacity requirements for community centres and facilities.

The following map (Figure 8) presents these community facilities in relation to the catchment area, including the three sub-areas of Rosemount, Mulvey and Columbanus/Farrenboleay. It is immediately evident that there is no facility within the catchment area itself.

Each of these facilities are described in relation to their activities, user groups and levels of participation within each of these facilities, beginning with those closest to the catchment area and then working outward into the wider area. A description of distance and travel times from catchment area is also provided. Figure 15 below shows these facilities within a three kilometre radius from the centre of the catchment area.

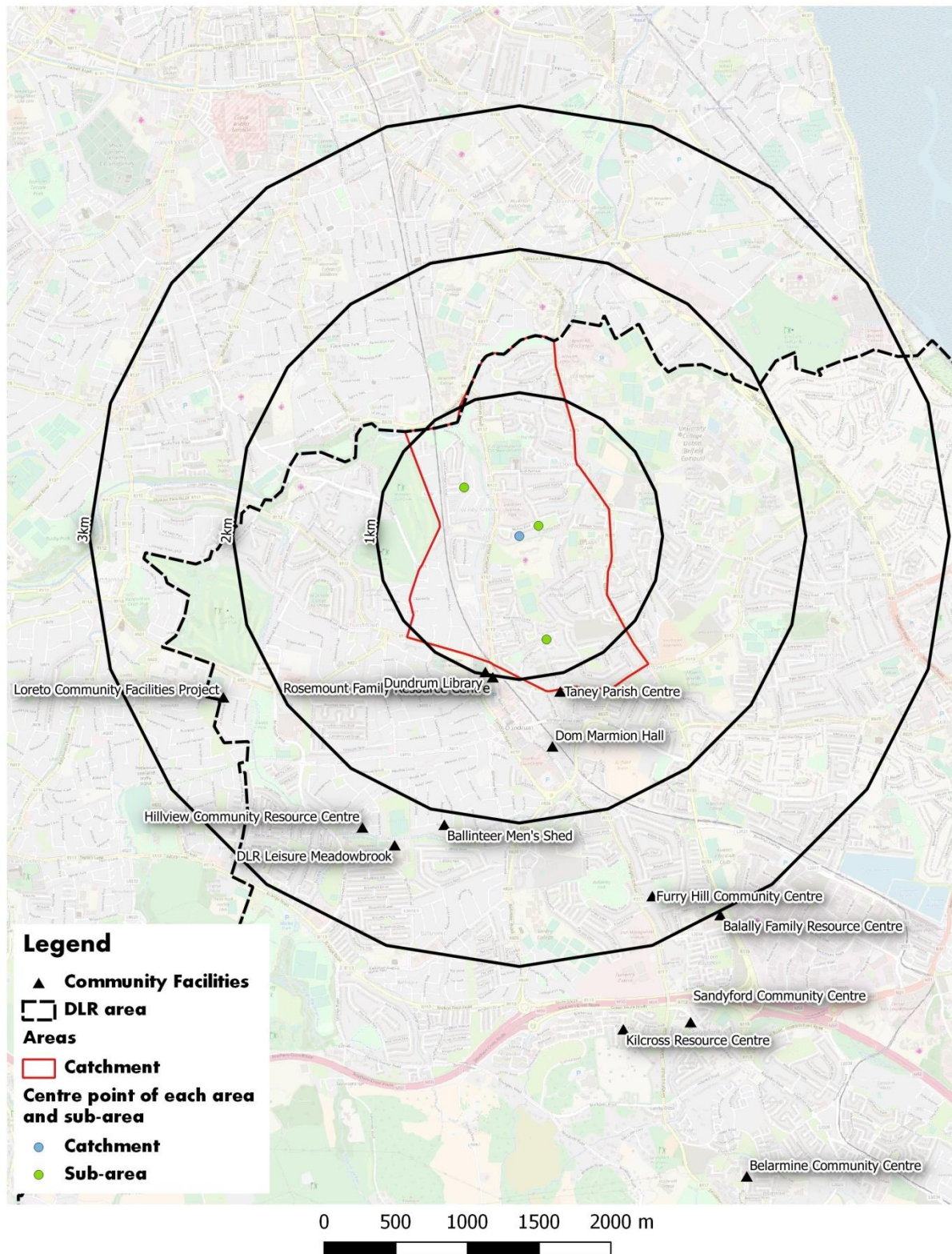
**Figure 8: Map of the existing facilities and the catchment area and sub-areas.**

Source: DLRCoCo. CRS: 2157. Map by Eoin O'Mahony, UCD.

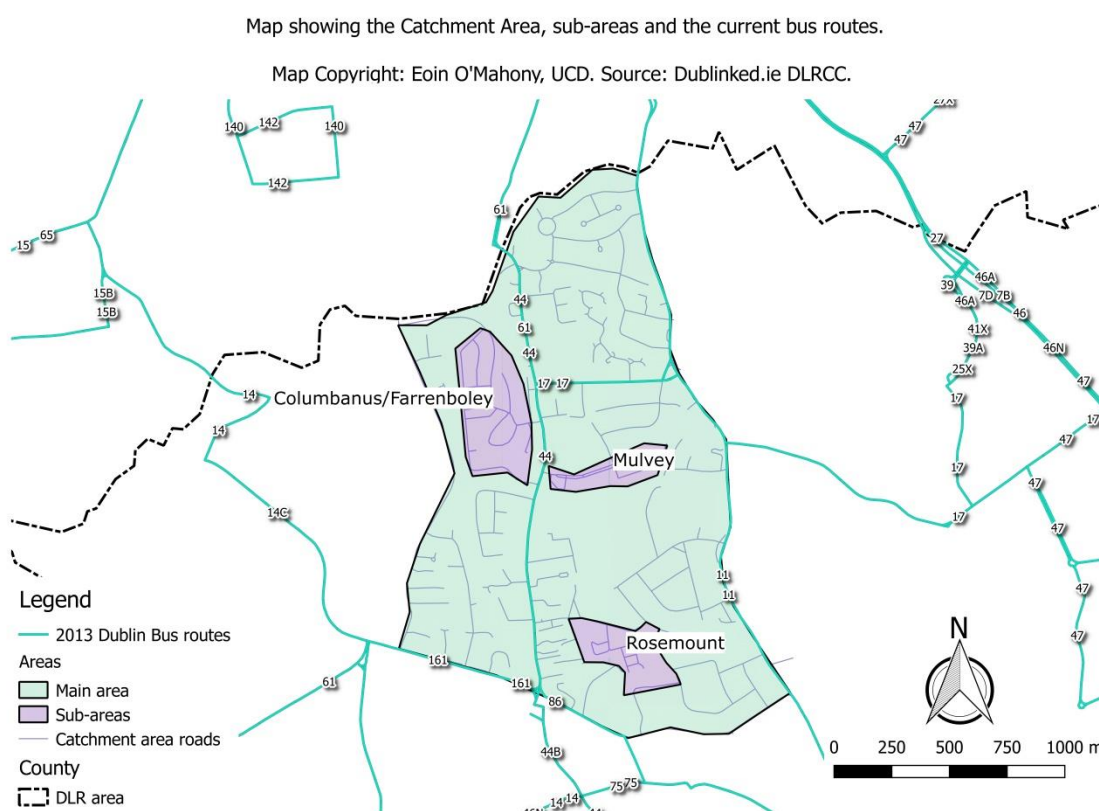


**Figure 15: Map of the existing facilities and 1km, 2km and 3km buffer from the central point of the catchment area, and sub-areas.**

Source: DLRCoCo. CRS: 2157. Map by Eoin O'Mahony, UCD.



The following map highlights the bus routes provided by Dublin Bus covering the catchment and immediate surrounding area. The travel times to each of the community facilities and centres in this section area based on these and connecting bus routes.



### 3.1 ROSEMOUNT FAMILY RESOURCE CENTRE

This community facility is the closest and most accessible to all parts of the catchment area.

- Distance from centre of catchment area<sup>15</sup> (km): 1.3km
- Travel time (walking): 17 minutes
- Travel time (by car): 5-8 minutes
- Travel time (by public transport): 6 minutes by bus

The catchment population for Rosemount FRC comes from the areas of Rosemount, Farranboley, Columbanus and Mulvey, as well as part of Goatstown.

While these areas have specific disadvantaged status that brings them into the remit of the work of the FRC, many of the activities are also taken up by members of the community living in other roads and estates. These community members may have been referred to a particular activity from agencies such as the HSE or disability services, e.g. participation in a social group to provide supports to people dealing with social isolation or computer classes for people with learning difficulties. They may also have received information notices in the area and dropped in.

<sup>15</sup> Distance and travel times are calculated from the centre point of the catchment area (Mulvey Park) to the community facility, using online tool.

For instance, a popular programme that runs for children and young people aged 7 to 17 is the Coder Dojo club that teaches basic programming and web development, in a social and creative environment. The key to the success of these clubs is the philosophy of peer learning, where students learn from each other with the assistance and guidance of local tutors and trained mentors.

Other classes and groups that engage the full community of the catchment area include healthy eating groups, craft groups, jewellery making groups, sketching classes, beginners and advanced computing courses and more targeted classes such as chair yoga for older members of the community.

**TABLE 19: ACTIVITIES AND USER GROUPS**

Current Activities	Current User Groups	Participation and Capacity
Classes	Older people, community members	Mindfulness Classes, Yoga, Chair Yoga Healthy Food Made Easy courses are all operating at full capacity.
Group Sessions	Parents, Residents	Parent Support Groups, Craft Groups are filled through drop ins and referrals. An FRC social group has 85 members and 5 volunteers who facilitate the sessions. A working group on Domestic Violence has organised training for staff and volunteers. These groups cater for up to 200 community members.
Meeting rooms	Residents Groups (3) use the space on weekly and monthly basis; other community groups including social groups and working groups also meet weekly.	Meeting spaces for evening meetings are available if booked in advance. Accessibility can be an issue depending on the group members.
Information sessions	Parents, community groups	There is a strong level of engagement with the catchment area communities either through drop ins or advertised meetings. Over 100 people received referrals in 2016 to other service providers on basis of these sessions.
Use of photocopiers, ICT support	Community members, job-seekers, young people	Some 65 people use the centre facilities on a regular basis
Support in job preparation (CVs, interviews)	Job-seekers, scheme participants	In 2016, 3 of the 18 community members receiving this support moved onto employment. Others became involved in volunteering.
Training volunteers	Community members, younger people and older people	The FRC works with 33 volunteers from across the community.
Counselling services	Children and adults	Counselling is provided to children and adults on the basis of referral
After school programmes	Children and young people	Some 57 young people and children are engaged in the afterschool programmes.
Study space for second	Teenagers	Second level students are

level students		encouraged to use the upstairs room if free during the weekdays to do homework and study.
Coder Dojo club	Teenagers	12 teenagers participate in a Coder Dojo programming group
Collaborate with other service providers (MABS, LES, ETB, SOLAS)	Community members	The FRC staff work closely with other service providers in the area to assist community members to access help and guidance in relation to employment and training opportunities, as well as issues to do with debt and housing issues.
Family days (summer, Halloween, Christmas)	Community members, children and families, volunteers	Over the year, family fun days are organised to bring the community together. Up to 120 people and 18 volunteers participated in these events.
Summer/Easter camps and projects	Children and young people	In 2016, the FRC was limited to taking 26 children and young people on their camps due to space limits.

### Analysis:

Even though the centre is based a short distance outside the catchment area, all activities such as classes and social groups are fully subscribed. The FRC space is quite limited and inaccessible for people with physical disabilities.

The Rosemount FRC is particularly hampered by its current location. It is based in an old house in Dundrum village, where space is at a premium. Accessibility is very poor for people with a disability, older people and for parents with children in buggies or prams. Meeting space is very limited and the development workers are operating at full capacity, given the spatial limitations. The upstairs meeting rooms are not serviced by a lift, so again are not suitable for some groups and classes that work with older people and people with a disability.

The FRC staff work closely with other service providers in the area to ensure that their community can access as wide a range of services as possible. For instance, in order to promote youth services in the area, a joint outreach project was run in 2015 with Crosscare.

The remit of the FRC covers large sections of the overall catchment area. Of all community facilities within the area, this centre is the only one with a dedicated remit for the catchment area.

The community members can access this range of courses and groups through this centre. Much outreach work has been carried out within the catchment area and in the wider community to build connections. The success of this approach has seen more groups seeking to use the limited space of the centre. Residents groups from further afield have begun to use the centre and with this extra level of engagement, new demands are being placed on the facility.

### 3.2 DUNDRUM LIBRARY

dlr Libraries are a core element of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council (DLRCC). The Library Service forms a part of the Economic, Community and Cultural Development Department within DLRCC. Dundrum Library is part of the dlr Libraries service and serves a catchment area extending from Dundrum to Ballinteer. The library is a 2-level Carnegie building that dates to 1914 that has served as various functions including as a school until the 1950s. In 2015 15,992 patrons were registered members of this Library.

- Distance from centre of catchment area<sup>16</sup> (km): 1.5km
- Travel time (walking): 17 minutes
- Travel time (by car): 5-8 minutes
- Travel time (by public transport): 9-15 minutes by bus

As well as providing standard library services, community members can access a range of clubs and groups during library opening hours. These sessions can accommodate up to a maximum of 25 people at a time. The following groups meet on a weekly or fortnightly basis:

- Parent and Toddler Group
- Scrabble Group
- Baby Book Club
- Writers groups
- Book clubs

Workshops and art exhibitions are also organised within the library space on a regular basis.

The library building is a designated protected structure. Some minor refurbishment works were completed in 2010. The current DLR Library Development Plan 2016-2020 indicates that there is hope “to upgrade the library during the life of this Library Development Plan, subject to funding”. The plan within its goal to support community potential views the library “as a cultural space, a meeting place for both people and ideas, creating opportunities to enhance community life.”

### 3.3 TANEY PARISH CENTRE

This facility is a key community asset for the Church of Ireland parish of Taney. As well as a parish resource, it also provides for the wider community through classes.

- Distance from centre of catchment area (km): 2km
- Travel time (walking): 25 minutes
- Travel time (by car): 5-8 minutes
- Travel time (by public transport): 17 minutes by bus

Taney Parish Centre is situated in the grounds of Taney Parish Church. The centre has a number of halls and meeting rooms that are in use for regular parish activities or are rented to a range of different sports, dance or arts groups. The space in the centre is generally booked from school term to term, with very limited availability beyond the current activity base. The centre operates on a self

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<sup>16</sup> Distance and travel times are calculated from the centre point of the catchment area (Mulvey Park) to the community facility, using online tool.

financing basis, with two staff members employed to manage the centre and deal with its administration. A key function for these staff is to work directly to support the ministers in their parish work and to support parishioners in their engagement with the centre.

The parish itself is bounded by Milltown to the north, Ticknock to the south, Churchtown to the west and Goatstown to the east. With over 800 families and more than 2000 parishioners, Taney is the largest Church of Ireland parish in Ireland in numerical terms.

A range of active parish based groups make use of the centre, including youth clubs, Sunday school and bible groups, choirs, ladybirds, brownies and guides, beavers, cubs and scouts, as well as badminton, snooker and bowling clubs, Mothers' Union and Taney Rangers group for older parishioners. The parish centre also connects in with the local Church of Ireland schools and hosts an annual summer fete. The provision of this wide range of parish-based activities within a very modern purpose-built set of facilities represent an important and useful space, primarily for the parish community. A play school for younger children is also based in the centre. Birthday parties and other community events can also be facilitated depending on availability.

Beyond these parish events, groups and activities, the centre acts as a very busy hub for a further range of groups and classes. Participants in these groups can often travel from a considerable distance. Each group tends to reserve its weekly sessions on a termtime basis and must self finance in terms of the charges that each participant pays. The main sports hall can cater for up to 350 people for meetings, but is generally used as a sports hall. The minor hall can cater for up to 120 people and there are meeting rooms that can hold 50 and 30 people at a time. A kitchen facility is also available for tea and coffee.

TABLE 20: ACTIVITIES AND USER GROUPS

Current Activities (for general public)	Current User Groups	Participation and Capacity
<b>Arts Classes</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Artzone</li> <li>• Art groups</li> <li>• Portfolio preparation</li> </ul>	General public, children and young people, students	These classes are run on a commercial basis and are organised by a range of providers.
<b>Sports and Fitness</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rugby and Hockeys</li> <li>• Fitness classes</li> <li>• Zumba classes</li> <li>• Pilates and Yoga groups</li> <li>• Martial arts</li> <li>• Badminton</li> <li>• Playball</li> <li>• Fitness League</li> </ul>	General public, members of the Parish, children and young people, active retirement groups	Again, these classes are run on a commercial basis, running from term to term.
<b>Mother and baby groups</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pregnancy and postnatal groups (yoga, music)</li> </ul>	Mothers from the Parish and local area	These groups cater for women during pregnancy and those with small children. These groups also are run on a commercial basis.

<b>Health and Nutrition</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Slimming world and Weightwatchers groups</li> </ul>	Members of the Parish and local community	These groups use the centre to run their groups.
<b>Dance Classes</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ballet</li> <li>• Ballroom dancing</li> <li>• Performing arts</li> <li>• Dance groups</li> <li>• Irish dancing</li> </ul>	General public, members of the Parish, children and young people	This range of dance classes is provided by a range of providers and operates on a commercial basis.
<b>Other classes and groups</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gardening classes</li> <li>• Language classes</li> <li>• Bridge clubs</li> <li>• Taney Drama Society</li> </ul>	Members of the Parish and local community, older people	These classes are provided to local community members on a paid basis.

#### Analysis:

The Taney Parish Centre is primarily a centre that serves the local Church of Ireland parish. While the parish-focused activities account for a major part of the ongoing day to day activities in the centre, there are a wide range of classes and groups that non-parishioners can access. These all operate on a commercial basis.

The prices of these classes can range from €100-110 for 8 sessions of art classes for children and young people or €130 for 15 weeks of dance classes. Attendance at other groups such as the bridge clubs involve a weekly fee or subscription. Between the parish activities and the externally run classes and groups, the space of the centre is fully subscribed.

The parish boundaries extend beyond the catchment area of the study and the parishioners represent the primary user group for the centre. The other groups and classes that are provided are accessed by people living in the catchment area, but there is no specific remit to cater for this area or the communities living there.

### 3.4 LORETO COMMUNITY FACILITY

This council operated centre is primarily a facility for the anchor tenants. Although the hall is also used for some classes and by community groups.

- Distance from centre of catchment area (km): 3.6km
- Travel time (walking): 43 minutes
- Travel time (by car): 11-15 minutes

Travel time (by public transport): 22 minutes by bus (including 10 minute walk)The Loreto Community Facility was in a previous life an educational establishment and has a catchment of the

wider Rathfarnham area. The former classrooms have been converted to office facilities, while there is also access to a shared hall and kitchen. The neighbouring primary school shares some of the grounds and the entrance.

The facility is operated by Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council and hosts the following anchor tenants.

- **Whitechurch Addiction Support Project (WASP)** is a community project offering family support, drop-in, outreach and information services to the community of Whitechurch and surrounding areas.
- **Nutgrove and Loreto Community Playgroup** is a pre-school service for up to 12 children.
- **Crosscare/ Dundrum Rathdown Youth Service** has their offices based here for the local area.
- **Cheeverstown Hub** is part of the Cheeverstown voluntary organisation that provides a wide range of residential, respite and day services to 400 children and adults with an intellectual disability in locations in South Dublin.

A Community Employment Scheme is operated from the facility with up to 29 participants, spread across a number of different community centres and facilities in the wider area.

The Nutgrove and Loreto Residents Association is another key tenant within the facility. This group organises a number of groups and clubs to access the hall during the week. These activities target user groups from the immediate Nutgrove area, including the older residents. These include:

TABLE 21: ACTIVITIES AND USER GROUPS

Current Activities	Current User Groups	Participation and Capacity
<b>Classes</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dance classes</li> <li>• Karate Club</li> <li>• Ukulele Club</li> <li>• Indoor Bowls</li> </ul>	Members of the local community, younger and older people	These classes and groups are attended by members of the local community. Some
<b>Men Shed</b>	Men from the area	The group is relatively active
<b>Bingo</b>	Older people from the area	Regular bingo sessions are attended again by older people from the local community.

#### Analysis:

This facility has for the most part a cross section of dedicated services based here, with a specific focus on their own target groups rather than the wider community, e.g. adults with an intellectual disability, people requiring addiction supports. For those groups and classes that are run by the Residents Association, they are targeted at their immediate local area.

While residents from the catchment area of the study are not precluded from attending these groups or classes, the distance involved and the fact that their community is not specifically engaged mean that there is not a regular attendance by people from the catchment area.

### 3.5 DOM MARMION HALL

This hall is a community asset for the older parishioners of the local Catholic parish. The hall is also used by external groups for classes.

- Distance from centre of catchment area<sup>17</sup> (km): 2.1km
- Travel time (walking): 26 minutes
- Travel time (by car): 10-12 minutes

Travel time (by public transport): 15 minutes by bus (including 7 minute walk)The Dom Marmion Society is a voluntary organisation that works to care for the elderly and the lonely in the Dundrum area. It was founded in 1969 through the local Catholic Church and a hall was built in 1992 in Dundrum. The hall is accessed through the County Council car park. The administration of the hall activities is carried out by a volunteer from the parish. A groundsman is also available through a community employment scheme. As well as the main hall that can cater for up to 100 people sitting at tables, there is also a smaller room that can cater for up to 30 people.

There are up to 100 members of the society, although not all participate in its activities. Most of the members will try to attend the annual Christmas dinner. The main activities carried out in the hall for members are linked to gentle aerobic exercises, indoor bowling, bingo, talks, guest singers / musicians, and bridge. These activities take place in the main hall on weekday afternoons. Other get togethers and events are organised from time to time by the organising committee.

When the hall is not in use by the society members, Dundrum Adult Training and Education (DATE) runs language, yoga and pilates classes during term time. DATE organises enrolment in these classes from its own offices and uses the hall as part of its outreach services. The AA also uses the smaller library room for its meetings twice weekly.

TABLE 22: ACTIVITIES AND USER GROUPS

Current Activities (for general public)	Current User Groups	Participation and Capacity
Classes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Language classes</li> <li>• Yoga</li> <li>• Pilates</li> </ul>	Members of the community	Dundrum Adult Training and Education make use of the hall to run classes during term time.
Peer support groups <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alcoholics</li> </ul>	Members of the community	Weekly AA meetings take place in the meeting room.

<sup>17</sup> Distance and travel times are calculated from the centre point of the catchment area (Mulvey Park) to the community facility, using online tool.

### Analysis:

Currently apart from older members of the local parish who participate in some of the organised activities, the other user groups who access the hall are either enrolled with DATE on an education course or are attending an AA meeting.

While there may be spare capacity within the hall in terms of its overall usage, the local administration through the local parish means that there is a reliance on a dedicated small team of volunteers. This volunteer base is closely linked to the membership of the society itself.

## 3.6 BALALLY AND HILLVIEW RESOURCE CENTRES

Working alongside the Rosemount Family Resource Centres are other local centres that serve the wider community of Dundrum and Balally and into Rathfarnham. While Rosemount FRC has as its target area the Electoral Divisions within our catchment, the other FRCs in this network (Hillview and Balally) cover their own dedicated areas, but operate from a very similar approach.

### Balally FRC

- Distance from centre of catchment area<sup>18</sup> (km): 4km
- Travel time (walking): 53 minutes
- Travel time (by car): 12-15 minutes
- Travel time (by public transport): 28 minutes by bus (including 18 minute walk)

### Hillview FRC

- Distance from centre of catchment area (km): 3.6km
- Travel time (walking): 43 minutes
- Travel time (by car): 12-15 minutes
- Travel time (by public transport): 31 minutes by bus (including 15 minute walk)

All three family resource centres work with children, parents and communities to combat disadvantage and improve the functioning of the family unit. They emphasise local involvement in the tackling of local problems, and creating partnerships between voluntary and statutory agencies at community level. FRCs are participative organisations that support families while building the capacity and leadership of local communities.

Both projects work with long term unemployed people, volunteers, children, young people, parents and community groups. Both centres are based within their community catchment areas, Balally sharing space with a scout den and Hillview based in a converted house within the estate. Both employ community workers and have access to scheme participants. They also have a strong volunteer base from the community, as well as management committees who represent the area.

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<sup>18</sup> Distance and travel times are calculated from the centre point of the catchment area (Mulvey Park) to the community facility, using online tool.

While both centres can provide services to the wider community and many of their activities do bring in people from outside their immediate catchment area, their principle function is to work with their local community base and user groups from this area. People from the Dundrum area are less likely to access these community facilities. Any services are offered on a no-cost or low cost basis. The FRCs work closely with all local agencies, including the County Council, Southside Partnership, Local Employment Services, Money Advice and Budgeting Service and the Education and Training Boards. Both FRCs provide a range of services that include the following:

**TABLE 23: ACTIVITIES AND USER GROUPS**

Current Activities	Current User Groups	Participation and Capacity
Counselling Services	Members of the community	Referrals are made to the in-house counselling services that work on a low cost basis with community members.
Community Befriending Service	Older people, isolated members of the community	Project to help reduce levels of isolation within the community where outreach work is done across the catchment areas.
Summer Projects	Children and young people, wider community	A range of activities are provided to keep children and young people engaged during their summer holidays, including day trips.
Sports and fitness programmes	Older people	Chair yoga, “Fit for Life” and chair aerobics are popular programmes that promote activity for older people.
Social groups	Older people	Weekly Bingo sessions are organised. Craft groups also meet weekly.
Youth programmes	Young people, second level students	Study groups, after schools programmes and drop ins are provided on a weekly basis to allow for a safe and supervised space for young people to attend.
Community education programmes	Parents, carers, members of the community	Programmes are designed and run based on ideas from the community, including those related to stress management, healthy eating, homework supports for parents, dealing with challenging behaviours. Some one-to-one type education programmes are also delivered in computers and IT.
Information talks and community events	Community members, older people, women	Raising awareness of different topics, such as community safety with local Garda, or health and well-being topics. Events to coincide with international women’s day, such as breakfast event.
Suicide awareness and prevention project	Community members, volunteers	Suicide training provided to community members, staff and volunteers. Also programmes such as Safetalk offered to raise awareness of
Early years childcare and playgroups	Children, pre-school and primary aged	Services offered to families with young children in the area, where their children can access playgroups and crèche facilities with trained childcare workers.
Men’s Development Initiative and Men’s	Men, older and younger, unemployed and	Projects to work with men to engage and provide supports for retired or unemployed men who may be feeling isolated or dealing with mental health

Shed	retired	issues.
Community arts projects	Parents, young people, older people	Projects and groups working with user groups such as parents in the community to develop confidence and skills through art and craft activities.

### Analysis:

Each FRC is very different in terms of how it works with its own communities. They work to strategies and annual plans that are developed in consultation with their own catchment areas and are based on detailed needs analyses. While each centre have access to their own staff, scheme participants and volunteers, a key part of their ability to expand their range of services and deliver new programmes is linked to their access to space. The FRCs in this local network (including Rosemount) are each relatively constrained by space.

It is clear from the evidence of the work that is carried out in these centres that their local communities and user groups are very well served and enjoy excellent access to a local community facility. As defined in the introduction to this study, community facilities and centres are built around the key principles of being accessible and inclusive, as well as centred in their community. Through working to these principles, FRC outcomes for their communities are very positive, especially in relation to indicators associated with health, education, civic engagement and security for members of their local communities.

## 3.7 OTHER COUNCIL OWNED FACILITIES

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council owns and runs a number of community centres within commuting range of the catchment area. As described above, the closest is the Loreto Community Facility, where a number of anchor tenants ensure that a self-sustaining model is possible. Further away from the catchment area, the Sandyford Community Centre operates in a similar manner. Although it has its own management committee, there is a service level agreement with the local authority in relation to the delivery of services to the community. Again a number of anchor tenants provide the ability of the centre to be self-sustaining. The management team at Sandyford also look after centres in Kilcross and Belarmine in terms of the management of booking and administration functions. Both these spaces are more limited, with less available capacity.

### Sandyford Community Centre

- Distance from centre of catchment area<sup>19</sup>: 5.1km
- Travel time (walking): 65 minutes
- Travel time (by car): 15-20 minutes
- Travel time (by public transport): 35 minutes by bus (including 10 minute walk)

### Kilcross Community Centre

- Distance from centre of catchment area: 5km
- Travel time (walking): 60 minutes

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<sup>19</sup> Distance and travel times are calculated from the centre point of the catchment area (Mulvey Park) to the community facility, using online tool.

- Travel time (by car): 15-20 minutes
- Travel time (by public transport): 35 minutes by bus (including 12 minute walk)

#### Belarmine Community Centre

- Distance from centre of catchment area: 6.1km
- Travel time (walking): 75 minutes
- Travel time (by car): 17-22 minutes
- Travel time (by public transport): 45 minutes by bus (including 20 minute walk)

The Sandyford Community Centre was completed in 1987 with the support of local fundraising and officially opened in 1991. In 2006 Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council approached the Community Centre's committee with the suggestion to extending the building, leading to the eventual development of a modern state of the art community building. The anchor tenants of the building are Lambscross Preschool, Lambkins Montessori and Dundrum Rathdown Youth Service.

Belarmine Community Centre and Kilcross Community Centre are both managed by the Sandyford Community Centre team. These are smaller spaces, where similar types of classes and groups meet. The Belarmine Centre hosts many mother and baby classes, exercise and dance classes. It also hosts a Move4Parkinsons group. The Kilcross Centre works with an older profile of community members and hosts such groups as a Ladies Club and a Biodiversity Initiative "Bee Friendly" and gardening clubs.

TABLE 24: ACTIVITIES AND USER GROUPS

Current Activities	Current User Groups	Participation and Capacity
Classes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Language classes</li> <li>• Yoga and pilates</li> <li>• Martial arts</li> <li>• Music</li> <li>• Dance and fitness</li> <li>• Irish dancing</li> </ul>	Members of the local community	All classes are run on a commercial basis by the class providers. The costs to the participants are either on a weekly or term-time basis.
Community groups <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental focus</li> <li>• Ladies groups</li> <li>• Disability support groups</li> <li>• Mother and baby</li> </ul>	Members of the local community, older people, mothers and people with a disability and their families	Some of the groups are also run on a fee-paying basis, although the costs for most groups are minimal and are just to cover the costs of renting the room.

#### Analysis:

In each of the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council run facilities within the surrounding area, there are a range of classes available to local residents. These classes are typically organised on a commercial basis, where a demand has been noted by the class provider. Once space for the classes and groups is available, booking forms are completed by the activity organiser. Presentation of

insurance certificates and licensing details are handled by the Sandyford team. Once the bookings are confirmed, classes and groups can then be advertised. The participants in the classes and the group members come from the local areas close to the centres, e.g. those attending the mother and baby groups in the Belarmine Centre tend to come from the local apartment complexes.

These Centres are located at a commuting distance of over 5 kilometres from the catchment area. So while many of these groups and classes may be attractive to community members, the ability to access the centres would require a car drive of up to 20 minutes depending on traffic. Public transport would take much longer and also involve some element of walking. For older members of the community, that makes the access to these centres extremely challenging.

### **3.8 OTHER FACILITIES/GROUPS IN THE WIDER AREA**

A number of other facilities and groups are present in the wider area. The Furry Hill Community Centre is managed by the Southside Partnership. The Meadowbrook Leisure Centre is run by dlr Leisure services for the county council and provides options for sports and swimming activities on a pay per visit basis. The Ballinteer Men's Shed operates from the Dundrum FC Clubhouse that is located adjacent to the Leisure Centre.

#### **Meadowbrook Leisure Centre (10)**

- Distance from centre of catchment area<sup>20</sup>: 4.5km
- Travel time (walking): 45-50 minutes
- Travel time (by car): 12-15 minutes
- Travel time (by public transport): 35-45 minutes by bus/tram (including 30 minute walk)

#### **Ballinteer Men's Shed (10)**

- Distance from centre of catchment area : 4.5km
- Travel time (walking): 45-50 minutes
- Travel time (by car): 12-15 minutes
- Travel time (by public transport): 35-45 minutes by bus/tram (including 30 minute walk)

#### **Furry Hill Community Centre (11)**

- Distance from centre of catchment area: 4km
- Travel time (walking): 45 minutes
- Travel time (by car): 10-12 minutes
- Travel time (by public transport): 35 minutes by bus/tram (including 25 minute walk)

#### **Analysis:**

The Meadowbrook Leisure Centre is one of four facilities managed by dlr Leisure services across the county. The Centre includes a swimming pool, gymnasium, aerobics room for classes, activity room for hire and 4 floodlit playing pitches. All activities are priced on a pay per visit basis. Camps are run

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<sup>20</sup> Distance and travel times are calculated from the centre point of the catchment area (Mulvey Park) to the community facility, using online tool.

for children during non-term time. A teen gym and keep fit programme is also offered to teenagers from the area.

The Ballinteer Men's Shed is a volunteer-led group that is "open to all men, regardless of age, ability or background". A weekly meeting takes place in the Dundrum FC Clubhouse. The Men's Shed initiative has grown quickly to establish itself as an important community space for local men. Trips are regularly organised, as are talks from local stakeholders from the community and health sectors. Active initiatives such as "Walking Football" have also been added to the weekly programme.

The Southside Partnership offers computer training courses in the Furry Hill Community Centre, as well as a range of supports and services for women, including older women including: Free English language and communication classes for migrant women. Women4Women is one such initiative and serves as a non-profit educational and networking group for women with different life experiences and from different cultures. Other support services and courses are available for the community, including arts and crafts, yoga, and healthy eating classes.

### **3.9 CONCLUSIONS AND IMPLICATIONS**

This section has mapped and audited the range of activities that are being provided within all the community facilities that are in close proximity to the catchment area. While there are no facilities within the catchment area itself, there is one community centre, the local library, two parish halls and a pastoral centre that can be reached in under 30 minutes walking time or 10 minute drive (where motor transport options are available) from a central point in the catchment area. These spaces represent the only facilities that can be considered "local" to the catchment area. The other facilities are for the most part focused on their own specific catchment area, e.g. in the Kilcross or Belarmine Community Centres, the local community makes up the participants in the activities of the centre, similarly in Hillview and Balally.

The following table summarises the manner in which these spaces provide for the key functions of a community facility (as articulated within Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council plans):

TABLE 25: SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND SERVICES OFFERED

Functions of Community Centre	Rosemount Resource Centre	Dundrum Library	Taney Parish Hall	Dom Marmion Hall	Loreto Facility	Hillview/ Balally FRCs/ Men's Shed	Sandyford/ Belarmine/ Kilcross/ Furry Hill	Leisure Centre
Meeting Space	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Provision of Information (face to face)	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	No
Access to classes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Access to group-based activities	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Volunteering opportunities	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No
Practical supports	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No
Community services (e.g. counselling, childcare, creche)	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	No
Youth services (targeted programmes)	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes
Afterschool programmes	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No

While **meeting space** is available in all community centres and facilities for local community groups and residents associations, the spaces are either already booked out, inaccessible for some user groups or too costly for many groups. Dedicated meeting space is therefore a major requirement for the catchment area. Meeting space that is low cost or free to community groups, accessible to all user groups including people with a disability and older people, and whose availability is prioritised for local community groups and residents associations.

All community groups and resident association involved in the consultation phase highlighted this particular challenge. Groups were very often required to use local bars or public houses to host meetings. Many felt that this was inappropriate, as well as costly. The groups consulted also considered that their regular meetings needed to take place within their communities. Most groups were based on volunteer commitments and were often struggling to hold onto members. In order to set these groups on a more sustainable footing with regard to encouraging the participating of new volunteers, the meetings had to take place in the locality. Not all group members had access to private transport options and indicated that they would not have the time to travel long distances by public transport to attend meetings. This was especially the case for older members of the groups and for lone parents.

When reviewed, the direct **provision of information** to community members was only taking place on a regular face to face basis within the three family resource centres. In the other facilities, people could access leaflets and booklets letting them know about the events and classes happening within their community centres. However, there was not necessarily a person available to provide information with regard to other aspects of their community life, such as information regarding back to education grants, signposting or referrals to other services, such as MABS or CIC.

Groups pointed out the importance of this type of face to face support is in terms of the promotion of their community activities and events. Many of those active within local groups indicated that it was through this type of personal contact that encouraged their initial participation within the group. The effective dissemination of information was linked to this personal connections between the community member and the centre. Many of those consulted indicated that they are often affected by poor turnout at local events due to a lack of ability to “get the word out”. These groups placed a value on the ability to have information available and accessible and disseminated directly to their community face to face. This information provision is often not only about communicating a message about an event; it is also about promoting participation and providing direction to community members. The importance of this work can be seen in terms of how Rosemount Family Resource Centre provided assistance to over 200 community members in 2017 in relation to supports regarding housing, education, training, employment and health. People were signposted to the local ETB office, referred to counsellors as well as Community Gardai. Those consulted within the active groups in the area highlighted the importance of this local level support.

**Access to classes and group activities** were available in all facilities. In many of the facilities, these involved reserving a place and paying a fee. For the most part, these were low cost classes and groups. The providers were working to cover their own overheads. In the family resource centres many of the classes and courses were subsidised by the centre or free to the user groups. The range of classes and groups was connected to the local demand. Mother and baby groups and pilates/yoga classes were some of the most popular. For older people, bridge classes and bingo sessions were in demand.

Another important function of a community facility relates to how it brings community members together to not just participate within the activities organised within the centre, but also to look to how they may become active members of their community. The active provision of **volunteering opportunities** and the relevant supports to volunteers was only provided through the resource centres. While all facilities are open to people becoming engaged with their organisational dimensions, usually as members of the parish, the active work of engaging with potential volunteers, training and supporting them to become active citizens in their communities was not a service provided by all facilities. As with the face to face provision of information, local groups highlighted the importance being able to encourage and support voluntarism within the area. These two elements were considered to be strongly connected. The presence of a community based worker, who would support the volunteers within the local groups, was regarded as a critical resource.

**Access to practical supports** (such as photocopying, printing, IT type assistance as well as CV preparation, etc.) was only available through the local resource centres. Having a staff member (or local volunteer from the community) on hand to be able to spend the requisite time with a community member was considered to be a critical factor in being able to successfully provide this type of practical support. The respondents from the community facilities highlighted that this was often the first level of engagement by a community member with their facility. The ability to provide a welcoming space for the community member, where they could maybe be given a cup of tea while they were accessing the required support, was again considered to be an important factor in ensuring that the person would re-engage at a future point.

The consultation process also involved discussions with local groups, stakeholders and service providers in relation to the manner in which other **community-based services** were being provided to people living in the catchment area. Many community facilities are providing services such as childcare, after school and homework clubs and active age programmes, as well as a range of other family supports. In relation to childcare services, these are mostly being provided by the anchor tenants within community and parish centres. Other community-based services, such as youth work and youth justice programmes and activities and home help supports are available to members of the catchment area through services based in Nutgrove and Balinteer.

Figure 15 (page 69) highlights the **distances between the catchment area and each facility**. The closest is within a 17 minute walk and the furthest a 75 minute walk. There are public transport options (bus or tram) in all instances, with the further centres require a walk from the bus or tram stop of another 12-30 minutes. If people have access to private transport, the car journeys can take from 5 minutes for the closest facility to 22 minutes for the furthest. All stakeholders highlighted that accessibility to the centres in the wider area becomes more and more problematic as the distance increases. This was considered to a major challenge for members of the user groups, who may have mobility issues, lack private transport options or are unable to manage public transport due to age, affordability, childcare commitments or disability. Groups furthermore indicated that they could not host meetings in the further centres, as they would not be able to secure the required turnout from the local community. They also indicated that they would not like to exclude potential group or campaign participants who may not be able to access meetings or sessions due to the above reasons.

The following section examines next steps in meeting these current and future needs of the community.

## **4 FUTURE NEED FOR COMMUNITY FACILITIES- EVIDENCE AND ANALYSIS**

Section 4 further examines the delivery of community services and facilities in relation to current needs as evidenced from Census 2016 and any other local plans/research and looks to who are the current user groups of these facilities.

Evidence regarding the nature of current unmet needs/gaps in community services is detailed, leading to a SWOT analysis of the current level of community facilities.

The following questions are addressed:

- How can future need be accommodated by current service provision?
- What level of extra capacity is required and for what purposes and user groups- size and scope?
- How would the Council centre model operate and how could governance and management considerations be dealt with?

A focus on sustainability with regard to the demand for any new facility into the future, as well as possible impact on other facilities will be analysed

### **4.1 EVIDENCE REGARDING COMMUNITY NEEDS AND SERVICES**

The population of the catchment areas has remained stable over recent Census periods, with few new housing developments affecting population growth. Due to the proximity to UCD, the catchment area has large numbers of students in rental properties. Most households renting from the local authority are also based in the three housing estates, namely Mulvey, Rosemount and Farrenboley/Columbanus. These features of the catchment area population and its housing stock have demonstrated a high degree of stability.

Section 1 has highlighted that the catchment area is due to experience new residential and commercial developments in the coming years that will increase the number of households by 1091 (for units already planned or in planning). It is unclear as to the nature and extent of residential developments associated with Phase II of the Dundrum Town Centre. Likewise, plans to develop further student accommodation in UCD have not been submitted. However, as more clarity emerges as to these plans, it will inevitably lead to some increase in residential units, with families and students requiring access to services within their community. However, the announcement of a major construction programme by the Land Development Agency to focus on the site of the Central Mental Hospital will see the potential addition of 1500 new homes to the catchment area. At a lower estimate, these new developments are expected to deliver an extra 2500 new residential units, with potentially 5000 extra people living in the community, representing a local population increase of up to 50%.

The catchment area represents a mixed and diverse area, with pockets of relative disadvantage, co-existing beside other areas and estates that are more affluent. The age profile is similar to the wider county, with a large youth and student population, as well as a sizeable number of older retired

people. Most one parent families are centred in the housing estates of Mulvey, Rosemount and Farrenboley/Columbanus. Levels of unemployment are also much higher in these areas and levels of educational qualifications are much lower. There are also larger numbers of younger children in these areas. As indicated in Section 1, the Southside Partnership have targeted these areas within their current plan as areas requiring specific supports.

In the more affluent areas, there are high levels of employment and almost 60% of people identify themselves within the professional or managerial classes, with the largest occupational blocks in the professional and associate professional and technical occupations. Levels of educational achievement are also very high here. Some of the small areas in the catchment area have some of the highest levels of older people in the county and nationally.

Of the community facilities in the local area, the Rosemount Resource Centre based in Dundrum village works closely with the community members living in the more disadvantaged areas, as well as from the wider area. It is now at capacity in terms of the space available to it. It provides meeting space to local residents groups and peer support groups, albeit this space is not accessible for people with a disability.

Other local community spaces are parish owned and run. These facilities work primarily with members of the Church of Ireland parish of Taney in the case of the Taney Parish Centre and the older members of the Catholic parish of Dundrum in the case of the Dom Marmion Hall and the Holy Cross Pastoral Centre. These user groups can access a range of classes, groups and activities in these spaces. A number of private education providers make use of the Taney Parish Centre to offer a range of classes and groups to the wider community on a fee-paying basis. The Centre is also at capacity in terms of its activity base. The Dom Marmion Hall serves the older population of the Dundrum parish. Education classes are also offered in this space. The local library also offers access to weekly meetings of book clubs, mother and baby groups and other organised workshops.

Other community facilities are accessible to members of the catchment area, but are more distant. The other family resource centres are primarily focused on working with members of their own catchment areas, providing a similar range of services as the Rosemount centre. Three Dun Laoghaire Rathdown Council operated community centres and a Southside Partnership run centre are based some distance away, with three of these centres based on the other side of the M50 motorway. These centres also provide a range of classes and group activities that people from the catchment area can access. A closer facility based in Nutgrove acts as base for a number of community organisations.

These facilities act as the main sources of community activities for residents of the catchment area. Section 2 has presented a comprehensive insight into the level and extent of services that they provide to their communities. It has been clear that the centres are not co-ordinated within a local network to respond specifically to the needs of the catchment area. In fact, each facility is understandably focused either on delivering services to its own community members or on its own viability by ensuring that its tenants and working partners are covering their overheads and costs.

This study has used the most up to date Census 2016 data to examine exact numbers of people within each user group, as well as referencing Southside Partnership analysis of local need. It has also sought to assist in a planning process on the basis of the potential needs of each of these user

groups. This analysis allows for a linking of potential target group need to the current levels of community-based services in the locality.

- Some 11% of people from the catchment area indicate that they are **living with a disability** (some 1297 individuals). Community-based disability support groups are not active in their immediate locality. Apart from Cheeverstown Hub that works with people with an intellectual disability from across south Dublin, there are no dedicated spaces where people with specific disabilities can come together for information, support or advice. The Rosemount resource centre works with community members who have been referred by the HSE within their range of groups.
- **People who are unemployed** (some 1450 people) can access a range of low cost classes within the resource centres, however these are generally not labour market focused. There are no community based jobs clubs. People can get some support with CV preparation and interview skills again in the resource centres.
- As a target group, **one-parent family households** experience the most deprivation in Ireland, with 11% of children living in consistent poverty. For instance, over half of those living in consistent poverty reported going without heating at some stage in the last 12 months.<sup>21</sup> One parent families (336 households with 486 children) are clustered within the catchment area in three specific areas. The provision of parenting supports, as well as education, training and employment assistance are important functions for a community facility in meeting the needs of one parent households. The local resource centre provides family support services, but there are waiting lists associated with many of these parenting programmes and initiatives targeting children and young people.
- **Older people aged over 70** (some 1145 people) can attend the various groups or classes that are provided in the local centres. Many make use of their parish centres. The resource centres also offer opportunities for participation in some active age groups, but the Rosemount centre has poor accessibility for anyone with mobility issues. The Dom Marmion centre also provides space and activities for older people. Access to volunteering opportunities is regarded as an important function of local community-based services. The National Positive Ageing Strategy<sup>22</sup> highlights the well-established positive association between voluntary work and wellbeing, indicating that engaging in voluntary work in later life is a strong predictor of better self-rated health, functioning, physical activity, life satisfaction, and with decreases in depression, hypertension, and mortality among older people. In addition to health benefits, volunteering can enhance social support networks, increase social status, and reinforce knowledge and skills. Volunteering also provides a role identity and sense of purpose for those retired from paid work. There are limited local opportunities for older people to engage in volunteering activities.
- There are almost 1000 **young people** between the ages of 10 and 18 years. These young people may be involved in some of the local sports clubs that are for the most part based outside the catchment area in Dundrum, Ballinteer, Kilmacud or Ballyboden, as well as some activities

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<sup>21</sup> CSO Survey on Income and Living Conditions

[www.cso.ie/en/releasesandpublications/er/silc/surveyonincomeandlivingconditions2014/](http://www.cso.ie/en/releasesandpublications/er/silc/surveyonincomeandlivingconditions2014/)

<sup>22</sup> National Positive Ageing Strategy [http://health.gov.ie/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/National\\_Positive\\_Ageing\\_Strategy\\_English.pdf](http://health.gov.ie/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/National_Positive_Ageing_Strategy_English.pdf)

available through their local parish centre. However, for young people in need of more targeted youth work or youth justice supports, there are currently no active programmes that target such young people in the catchment area. There are youth programmes provided outside the catchment area serving the wider area, for instance those provided at Loreto and Nutgrove.

- The catchment area has a large proportion of **third level students**, due to its proximity to UCD. This represents a further group of up to 1000 young people. While these young people may be fully engaged within the life of their college, there are inevitably a cohort who would be interested in contributing to the community where they are living. Other areas with large numbers of students seek to tap this resource through building their involvement in volunteering activities. From helping out with sports clubs, educational or social programmes for younger people such as homework clubs or Coder Dojo groups, these young people currently represent an untapped resource for the community.
- There are some 967 one person households in the catchment area. This represents a large number of **people living alone** and this proportion increases as the community members get older. While many of this group are currently engaging within their parish centres, there are also many of this section of the community who feel isolated and insecure. The provision of outreach programmes and community based befriending services have been proven to deliver important social outcomes for people living alone.
- There are up to 1800 people in the community who have left the education system with no educational qualification levels beyond secondary school. Of this group, many have left school much earlier still. Many of these people are looking for access to opportunities for community based education programmes. **Early school leavers** are a key user group within the community that can benefit from greater access to community facilities, where they can receive support to return to education.
- There are large numbers of **young children aged up to 10** (1264). Some may require access to early childhood care, as well as crèche and pre-school places. Many of the pre-school services in the area are operating at full capacity. The costs of these places are also reported as very high. A community- based crèche facility that operates on a not-for-profit basis would be welcomed by families with young children throughout the community.
- The largest single cohort of people within the community is **adults aged between 25 and 64** years. A key focus for these 5319 people relates to how they can provide for themselves and their families. Another important aspect is connected to how they can engage within their community. There may be a desire to volunteer, to contribute within a residents group or a sports club or to assist in a youth group. Many of these opportunities for increased community engagement could be supported better through greater co-ordination of voluntary groups and organisations.
- The catchment area has a large number of active **residents' associations and groups** that form a core part of the local community infrastructure. In fact, without these seven groups and their membership, the catchment area is relatively lacking in dedicated community development activity. A key challenge for these groups is the lack of dedicated, available and appropriate meeting space within their locality. For residents' groups or campaign groups, the options for their regular meetings involve meeting in one of the committee member's houses or in a local pub or restaurant. For any larger public meeting, where speakers are to be invited or a question and answer session is planned, for the groups to access a larger space, their options are limited to one of the parish halls. There is a cost involved in making such a booking and given that these

parish halls tend to already have regular weekly activities planned, it is often quite challenging to secure a booking for the time that is most appropriate. The cost of making a reservation in these meeting spaces can be seen as prohibitive for a community group that has no funding sources.

## 4.2 SWOT ANALYSIS OF THE CURRENT LEVEL OF COMMUNITY FACILITIES.

The following analysis emerges from the evidence in terms of the extental and internal strengths and weaknesses of the community:

TABLE 26: SWOT ANALYSIS OF CATCHMENT AREA IN RELATION TO COMMUNITY FACILITY

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parish based centres have excellent track record in delivering for their parishioners</li> <li>Resource centres likewise in responding to specific needs of groups from across their catchment areas</li> <li>Community members are actively looking for community-based services</li> <li>Demand is evident from community members for many classes and groups, as private education providers continue to run sessions</li> <li>Communities are well served by active residents groups and associations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If not already involved in life of parish or centre, awareness of activities is low.</li> <li>Many services are not available in the locality.</li> <li>While many people engage regularly with their centres, others feel that these centres are not aimed at their particular needs.</li> <li>Different sections of the catchment area are not connected together</li> <li>Residents' groups and associations require further support in relation to organisational requirements and access to meeting space</li> </ul>
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increasing demand for community based services from childcare through to supports for older people (evident from Census)</li> <li>Volunteering resources are untapped, students and older people are typically much more involved in local communities</li> <li>Community groups are keen and active with regard to making use of new community space for the area.</li> <li>Local policy framework offers support for provision of co-ordinated and sustainable community facilities, where need is demonstrable</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lack of space for people to come together and promotion of civic engagement contributes to lack of community identity</li> <li>Future residential developments will bring greater numbers of people into the community, increasing demand for access to community based services</li> <li>Many user groups, including people with a disability, one parent families or disadvantaged young people, may be disadvantaged if they are unable to access community services locally</li> <li>Challenges associated with social isolation for older people in the community</li> </ul>

### 4.3 ACCOMMODATING POTENTIAL NEED WITHIN CURRENT FACILITIES

According to interviews with the local stakeholders, including the managers and administrators of all community facilities, there is very little capacity available for any new services in their centres. These interviewees had lengthy experience of designing, delivering, managing as well as reviewing and evaluating a wide range of community based activities. They were used to working directly with members of the catchment area itself, as well as members of the wider area.

For the following user groups, as evidenced above, there are specific challenges in accessing certain services in the catchment area. Were these services to be made available into the future, the following table examines the extent to which the current facilities would manage this extra demand.

TABLE 27: ADEQUACY OF CURRENT CAPACITY TO MEET COMMUNITY NEEDS

User Groups within Catchment Area	Future Needs and Services	Who to Deliver Services	Current Facility Capacity
People with a disability	Support groups; Awareness raising events and campaigns;	Resource centre staff; Disability NGOs	Local resource centre has accessibility issues; NGOs would find it difficult and expensive to access space on regular basis in parish centres
People who are unemployed	Jobs clubs; CV and interview supports; information regarding back to work supports	Resource centre staff; LES staff	Local resource centre groups are oversubscribed; LES can deliver outreach programmes in resource centres, but space at a premium
One-parent family households	Parenting support programmes; children and youth activities;	Resource centre staff; External counsellors, youth services	Resource centres provide parenting programmes on regular basis, taking referrals; provision of targeted youth services to the young people of the catchment area- there is no dedicated space available if resources were targeted
Older people aged over 70	Social groups; classes; outreach activities	Resource centre staff parish leaders and other volunteers; education providers	There are a wide range of classes and groups being provided in the local centres for older people, as well as activities such as bridge and bingo. However, there are low numbers engaging with these relative to the overall population of older people in the area.
Young people (10-18 years)	Youth clubs; social and educational programmes (drug awareness, etc.); facilitated trips; youth justice and other targeted programmes	Youth service providers	Youth services are being delivered from outside the catchment area to this user group. If resources were to be directed, there is no dedicated available space. Need to develop specific targeted youth programmes for the young people of the catchment area
Third level	Volunteering	Resource and	A dedicated local volunteer base could

students	opportunities	parish centre staff to organise and manage in partnership with StudentVolunteer programme; DLR Volunteer Centre	be put together from the large number of students living in the area, linked to existing UCD Studentvolunteer initiative. A bespoke programme could then be delivered that would support local initiatives e.g. working with young people or older members of community. The resource centre could provide space for this programme, but the space is very limited.
People living alone	Social groups; outreach and befriending programmes	Resource centre staff and volunteers from parish centres; active age/retirement groups	Meeting space is already at a premium within the local centres. The meeting spaces tend to be booked from term to term. Social groups require welcoming spaces and need a no-cost or low-cost model. Ideally they are accessible within local community.
Early school leavers/ community members with limited educational qualifications	Community education courses; taster classes; back to education initiatives	Formal and informal education providers	Community based settings work best in engaging with people who have left the education system early. There are options for people to access a wide range of education courses within the Dundrum Town Centre.
Young children aged up to 10	Pre-school places; affordable crèche and after school; playground facilities	Community based childcare providers; resource centre staff and volunteers	Lack of access to affordable childcare acts as a major barrier for many people in trying to access the labour market. Currently there is no space available in the community for new places to be provided. Access to playground facilities will also become more and more important for the community.
Adults aged between 25 and 64	Men's Groups/Men's Shed, Women's Groups, Volunteering opportunities; counselling	Resource and parish centre staff; DLR Volunteer Centre	Space for the provision of regular group meetings is unavailable unless other groups and classes are removed from the schedules. Volunteering programmes would create more demand for space as more people become involved in the community life. Community based services such as counselling may also be in greater demand as the numbers of people in this age bracket increases.
Residents' associations and groups	Meeting space; practical supports regarding photocopying, printing;	Resource and parish centres	Currently these groups meet in local pubs and restaurant as there is no dedicated community space available for groups.

It is clear from this evidence and analysis, that there is not adequate space within the current community facilities in the area to meet the future potential demand for services that will continue to emerge from these user groups. While the resource and parish centres can provide some support to new initiatives, classes, groups or programmes, there are already competing demands on their space and their capacity to allow the delivery of their current set of activities.

There is a clear lack of current capacity to accommodate these overlapping and competing demands. These demands are presenting challenges on the existing spaces, as well as on the resources available to manage these facilities. That does not take into account the further pressures that will be forthcoming, as the planned developments are completed within the area.

#### 4.4 WHAT LEVEL OF EXTRA CAPACITY IS REQUIRED?

The expert feedback and evidence presented above regarding the community profile and how it is evolving and the analysis of how its needs are being met highlights that in order to deliver for the future needs of the user groups in the catchment area, extra capacity is considered a key requirement. The local policy and planning framework are also key considerations here.

TABLE 28: WHAT IS NEEDED IN A NEW COMMUNITY FACILITY FOR THE CATCHMENT AREA?

Requirements for community members and user groups	Description	Future Capacity Required
Meeting Space	Provision of meeting spaces where community members and groups can come together and organise activities.	Dedicated and accessible meeting rooms that groups can use when required
Provision of Information	Providers of information, signposting and referral, where community members can receive advice and direction.	Community-based worker/ volunteer with knowledge and expertise regarding local services
Access to group-based activities	Open for different user groups to find supports, such as for older people, parents, people with a disability	Accessible space where new groups and community-led programmes can take place. Community-based worker/ volunteer to facilitate and support delivery of such activities
Community based services	Spaces where community services are provided, such as childcare, crèche and playground facilities, afterschool programmes, youth services, mental health programmes and counselling	Local space where accessible and affordable community childcare places can be offered; space where targeted youth work programmes can be delivered to young people from catchment area; space for provision of counselling rooms/ mental health support programmes/groups (on basis of affordable community based options to be provided).
Access to classes	Spaces of lifelong learning, where	Local space for community-based

	education and training classes are delivered	outreach education and training courses and programmes
Volunteering opportunities	Volunteer-oriented allowing for people to get involved in the life of their community- this involves identifying and supporting these volunteers	Community space where volunteering options can be explored and promoted, led by centre-based worker/ volunteer, developing partnerships and collaborative initiatives involving local colleges and organisations.
Practical supports	Practical in terms of available for day to day type supports such as IT, photocopying, etc.	Shared multi-purpose community-based office and IT space for local groups, volunteers and workers, allowing for after-hours accessibility.

Through providing these functions within a dedicated community facility, current levels of service provision could be enhanced and future proofed to address current and emerging needs of the user groups highlighted above. Extra dedicated supports for children and young people would be provided. As the population of the area increases by a minimum of 30% in a matter of years, new households with young children will also be seeking to avail of these supports.

Local stakeholders highlighted that the extra capacity required to meet the needs of this growing community is not currently available within their centres and facilities. In examining how a new community space can be developed, where these functions can be delivered, local planning policy points to key principles. As well as looking to its required size and scope, it is critical to examine how service providers, current facilities and the community can work together to ensure that a new space can deliver for all.

Section 2.3 above reviewed the extent to which the local planning framework was focused on how all local plans affect the catchment area and its potential for future balanced development. As noted, there are limited specific references to the catchment area and proposals regarding its future development. Strategy and planning documents for the county are relevant in terms of their general focus on and vision for the wider community, as well as in relation to their thematic concerns regarding promoting increased levels of social inclusion and civic engagement.

The County Development outlines the principles that should underline the development of any new community centre or facility. These state:

- That a clear need is evident
- That it will be co-ordinated in relation to local neighbourhood centres
- That it is accessible with strong public transport links
- That it is run by local management bodies
- That all sustainability factors are taken into account, i.e. walking distance, close to areas of demand, where services are at capacity

The prospective development of any new facility needs to clearly take account of these factors. In relation to the catchment area, the evidence and analysis points to a clear need, concentrated areas of demand and community based services some of which are at capacity, others that cannot respond

to the specific needs of some user groups. The consultation work with local stakeholders further highlighted that the distance between the catchment area and some of their centres was not conducive to addressing user group needs in a meaningful or sustainable community-based manner. It was pointed out that placing an expectation on one parent families to travel by public transport on a round trip of over 2 hours (between catchment area and 3 centres included in the study) to attend a mother and baby group or training course was not considered appropriate. Stakeholders also considered the importance of new community spaces that can promote intergenerational activities and programmes that work to combating social isolation, as well as initiatives that promote the better engagement of people with a disability in the community.

For other vulnerable groups, the issues of accessibility, proximity and sustainability are also closely linked together. With increasing numbers of older people, people with a disability and families with young children, the planning of any new community space should also examine the criteria of proximity to the catchment area.

The catchment area itself has a series of zoned neighbourhood centres that are well served by public transport and within walking distance of all estates, including those of Rosemount, Mulvey and Farrenboley/Columbanus.

While the County Development Plan does not necessarily outline how such sites would be developed, it considers that these neighbourhood centres should be maintained and strengthened where necessary. These neighbourhood centres are considered an essential and sustainable amenity for residential areas.

Local residents groups are active and co-ordinated. These can form the basis of a local management body, as has happened in other multi-use community centres in the County.

The specific local objective associated with the expansion of the Dundrum Town Centre into Phase II is also an important consideration for any future decisions regarding the location of a new community facility. This objective provides for a range of uses including those of a community and civic nature that will “supplement that already provided for within the wider Dundrum Town Centre”. While this proposal is to be considered in the framing of the Dundrum LAP, such a development would not necessarily be targeted at the specific needs of the catchment area, as the boundary of the LAP only takes a small section of the catchment into its plan.

Should the boundary of the Dundrum LAP be extended to include more than one quarter of the catchment’s population (especially the estates of Farrenboley, Columbanus and Mulvey), this provision within SLO149 of the County Development Plan could be seen as critical in terms of addressing the needs of these communities.

The implications of the Land Development Agency commitment to the construction of 1500 new residential units on the site of the Central Mental Hospital have yet to be analysed. Any development of this size will clearly have a considerable impact on the current community infrastructure.

In order to further address options regarding the siting and specific location of a new community facility or centre within the community, next steps now involve the engagement of local planning bodies to examine the spatial and capital cost infrastructure and resourcing requirements. This report demonstrates the need and community requirements, as well as the local commitment for a

balanced and sustainable community development. As the profile of the community will evolve as more residential developments are initiated and completed, the response to the current needs requires a response that can also take account of larger numbers of people within the catchment area. This current community need will clearly become more pronounced.

#### 4.5 WHAT TYPE OF SPACE IS NEEDED?

The scope of the facility would involve the following:

TABLE 29: WHAT TYPE OF SPACE IS NEEDED FOR COMMUNITY AND ALL USER GROUPS?

Functions of Community Centre	User Groups	Physical Requirement within Community Facility
Meeting Space	All user groups, including local residents' associations and campaign groups (e.g. Imagine Dundrum)	Meeting rooms. Larger modular space that can be subdivided.
Provision of Information	All user groups, including older people	Central hub of facility. Information can be displayed, community members can access appropriate staff for one to one support or contact regarding information/ signposting/ referrals
Access to classes and to group-based activities	All user groups. Some interviewees indicated that they would like to start a local Men's Shed for the area, if space was available.	The meeting rooms can also be used to host groups and classes, during the day and evening.
Promoting volunteering opportunities	Third level students, older people, people in employment	Meeting space, where programmes may be delivered (e.g. afterschool groups, social groups, homework clubs), space where dedicated youth programmes are delivered
Practical supports	All user groups, community groups, residents' associations, unemployed people	Space within a central hub, where support can be offered with regard to minutes from meetings, CV development, photocopying, etc.
Community based services	Families with young children,	Space where outreach programmes and other non-centre based activities can be organised and run. Outdoor play area for children
Youth programmes	Young people, students	Dedicated youth space, where programmes can be delivered (mental health, drug awareness, arts and creativity, GAISCE, etc.) by youth work staff. Options for supervised study space
Administration and Facility Management	Centre staff and management team	Office space for each of the anchor tenants

Kitchen Facility	All user groups	Kitchen, where tea/coffee can be made available to user groups, cooking facilities can also be included to allow for catering for group meetings.
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The community facility could be structured according to a shared set of spaces, community oriented for the purposes of meetings, classes or groups. A central core space with information stands and staffed reception area would allow community members to engage with their facility and proceed to either link in with services that may relate to their specific requirements, e.g. meetings for the Men's Shed, access to a youth club or teenage health programme or disability support group. The community member could also become actively involved within the centre as a volunteer within any number of programmes, groups or classes.

An outdoor area with playground facilities would allow for the large number of families with young children to engage with the centre.

Assuming that the Community Centre/ Facility Usage Policy aims and objectives are implemented within such a facility, these functions can be put in place and operated within guidelines and a best practice framework that has already been developed within the County. The work of both tenants and the community management team would ensure that the community facility would be in constant use, by day and by night. For instance, youth club activities and other programmes could be run at the same time as residents' association meetings, as well as an active age group session.

The sustainability of such a community facility would be based on this expanding activity base. As anchor tenants become more established and community user groups are engaging in greater numbers, the local authority business model for the centre becomes proven. Strong reporting skills linked to monitoring and evaluation of results will be necessary for this management team. As a result of such ongoing analysis of results, there will be clear and demonstrable outcomes and impacts emerging for the user groups, arising from the placing of this community facility within this area of unmet need. All funding sources, from the statutory and voluntary sectors to the philanthropic movement, will be made aware of such results from the outset.

#### 4.6 IMPACT ON THE SUSTAINABILITY OF OTHER LOCAL FACILITIES

An important consideration that must also be taken into account relates to the impact of a new facility on other community centres in the locality.

A new community facility within the catchment area will not affect the services, classes and groups delivered in the **Taney Parish Centre**. The primary user groups of this parish centre are from the parish and will continue to make use of the centre with their families and children. The education and other activity providers (arts classes, dance, language, etc.) are long term tenants within the centre and have committed participants who attend the classes.

The **Dom Marmion Hall** will also be similarly unaffected by the development a new community facility in the catchment area. The primary user group of the parish hall consists of the 100 members of the Dom Marmion Society. The other user groups who attend classes enroll through DATE in Dundrum village and will continue to access classes in a similar manner whether the new facility is in situ or not, likewise for AA meetings, participants will continue to attend their regular meetings.

The **Rosemount Resource Centre** is currently at full capacity with regard to its ability to deliver new programmes. A new community facility within the catchment area would require the full engagement of the resource centre in order to plan their work in a co-ordinated, inter-agency approach. The resource centre would also make for an appropriate fit, when anchor tenants are being sought. This would allow for a transition of their user groups from their current space to the new facility.

The other Family Resource Centres in the area (**Hillview** and **Balally**) have specific catchment areas and estates in which they are located. Their community members would be unlikely to travel to a different community facility, unless there were specific resources or programmes being offered there that were not available in their own centre. This may be the case in relation to certain types of family support programmes for groups, such as Strengthening Families or ParentsPlus.

The Council run Community Centres in **Nutgrove** and further away in **Sandyford, Kilcross** and **Belarmine**, as well as the **Furry Hill Centre** operated by Southside Partnership, would be unaffected by a new community facility. The same factors of proximity and already having a local connection with their own centre would mean that these centres would not be affected in terms of their programme offerings and their class and group activities.

As a new centre becomes more active and develops new health initiatives for its user groups to promote social well-being, the **Meadowbrook Leisure Centre** would be an important local support in allowing these groups to access sports and leisure facilities. This should increase the footfall for the leisure centre over time.

#### 4.7 HOW WOULD THE MODEL OPERATE?

Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council has approximately 30 Community buildings which range in use and size. Of these, 15 would be considered multi-use Community Centres. The Community Centres are operated under a Management Agreement from the Council by a Voluntary Board of Management/ Committee. They include local community representatives, stakeholders, user groups and Council staff representatives to manage the centres and help ensure that they provide a wide range of activities in response to local needs. These Community Centres play an important role in local communities. They provide places where people can interact, learn, engage in recreational activities, be supported and grow. In many areas, including those in Sandyford and the M50 belt, they are the focus of socially sustainable communities.

These centres have a proven track record in the area of delivering a sustainable model of community development. As per its own current plan for the period to 2022, the County Council is committed to the delivery of additional social and community infrastructure, ensuring a balanced and equitable provision of social and community facilities, responsive to the identified needs of local communities.

The further provision of community centres to meet local need will provide a focus to support community development, a sense of well-being and quality of life in the local communities. The County Council is committed to investing not just in the physical infrastructure, but also in the community activities to support the development and delivery of services in line with local community needs.

A key success factor in this model of community development relates to the strong management and oversight functions carried out by local community organisations. These centres are in the main

operated and run under an operating agreement by a voluntary committee or board of management. This is evident in the many community centres that were consulted through this study. The rent paid by anchor tenants provided a sustainable income flow to cover all overheads and to contribute to the ongoing management costs. These tenants are community-based organisations, including a disability NGO, childcare providers, a drug and alcohol support projects and local youth services projects. Local community organisations including residents' associations also play an important role in ensuring that the community centres are working directly with their catchment areas.

These centres have worked to ensure that they are able to operate in a sustainable manner through securing these anchor tenants. These tenants have a strong community focus, but are generally operating independently of the centre itself. For example, the youth justice project, childcare facility or disability project have their own different funding and operational backgrounds and do not necessarily have to engage with the Centres, other than to make use of the rented space. This model allows for a subsidisation of costs to service providers (e.g. yoga instructors, fitness class organisers, etc.) who are looking to operate from the Centre on a weekly or monthly basis.

A **Community Centre/ Facility Usage Policy** has been prepared with input from the operators of Community Centres. This provides guidelines to support them in the effective operation and use of community centres. As well as looking to state the aims and objectives of community centres and facilities, the policy document also presents an overview of their remit, booking and payment procedures, health and safety issues, insurance, code of conduct, complaints procedures and consultation and reviews of usage.

This policy sets out the aim of a community centre “to provide a place to meet, hold social, cultural, educational and recreational activities across all ages and sections of a community; to enable people to get involved in their community and enhance their quality of life.”

The more specific community centre/ facility objectives are listed as:

- a. To provide a range of facilities to meet the needs of the local community, including the provision of meeting rooms and assembly halls, whether for hire or otherwise, for meetings or events.
- b. To provide services to all sections of our diverse community irrespective of age, race, gender, religion, ethnicity or nationality, physical ability, sexual orientation or membership of the Travelling Community.
- c. To support and advance education and learning opportunities, including life-long learning, social and educational leisure pursuits.
- d. To support and promote local community well-being, inclusiveness, solidarity and interactivity through volunteerism and civic engagement.
- e. To provide and facilitate the provision of a local service in a sustainable and locally responsive environment for the benefit of all in the community.

This model represents a strong commitment to meeting the community needs in a long term sustainable manner. Through the commitment to a regular review of use, the policy sets out how the centre's management will ensure that there is an ongoing focus on the catchment area and the community needs. These are outlined as follows:

- a. The management, in the interest of fairness and equity of access, shall undertake periodic reviews of the regular usage of the facility.

- b. The regular reviews of usage should examine the demographic, sectoral and locality factors to ensure that the Community Centre continues to cater for the needs of a diverse community.
- c. Consultation with regular users should be ongoing and structured to assist the management in the effective and efficient operation of the Community Centre.
- d. A general statistical report on the use of the Community Centre will be produced by the management and published electronically at the end of each calendar year.

The community infrastructure that currently works with the catchment area under study is demonstrably stretched in terms of being able to deliver on these range of objectives to the community. This infrastructure will find it more challenging to meet the needs of new households and user groups that come to live in any new residential developments that come on stream in the coming years.

To fulfil this model and , a new community facility would require the involvement of key local organisations as potential anchor tenants. The positioning of such community organisations with their independent funding streams within a local community facility would allow for the many diverse needs of the community, evidenced in Section 2, to be addressed. As with other community centres operated by the local authority in the wider area, a facility management group would be made of representatives from active local residents' associations and groups.

The development of the new community facility will evidently require a detailed planning phase. Given the considerable population growth planned within the catchment area, there is clearly a need to look at what would be required depending on catchment area and increased population growth.

#### **4.8 NEXT STEPS**

There are strong community-based organisations within the area that will support the development of a new facility and ensure its sustainability. These groups and organisations working together can deliver on a facility management model that the Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council has championed in other surrounding areas. There are high levels of expertise and experience that can be shared from these facilities, especially from the management team in Sandyford. The Community Centre / Facility Usage Policy lays out a blueprint for the functions and operation of such a facility.

Analysis of community facility engagement levels indicates that the development of a new facility within the catchment area will not have a negative bearing on other local community centres and their sustainability. A new community facility would represent an important step forward for the community, allowing for the specified current and future needs to be addressed and channelled in a supportive community development environment. Vulnerable groups in the community, from the young to the old, as well as people with a disability, would be able to find a space where they can engage.

The evidence emerging from Census and data from other key organisations in the county highlights that there are a range of user groups within the catchment area that need further supports, in a targeted manner. Feedback from all stakeholders points to local facilities with limited capacity. With the community increasing in size, this capacity will not be able to meet future demand.

Accommodating the needs will clearly require a requisite increase in community infrastructure to be provided locally.

The community centres and facilities that currently work with the community from the catchment area have a number of challenges. The distance for many user groups makes access problematic. For older people with mobility issues, parents with young families, people with a disability, young people seeking to engage with targeted youth programmes, travel to and from an appropriate service can act as a barrier. For many of the facilities in the immediate vicinity of the catchment area, there are further challenges to do with accessibility, over-subscription, the range of programmes, user groups being targeted, as well as cost.

The local County Development planning framework focuses on principles of accessibility and sustainability as key determinants in understanding how future community development should be facilitated. The ongoing work in shaping Local Area Plans represents a key opportunity to address and respond to the community needs of the catchment area.