Rebuilding Dublin: A Resilient Capital City

Helping Dublin remain a premier Global City and the Engine Room of the Irish Economy
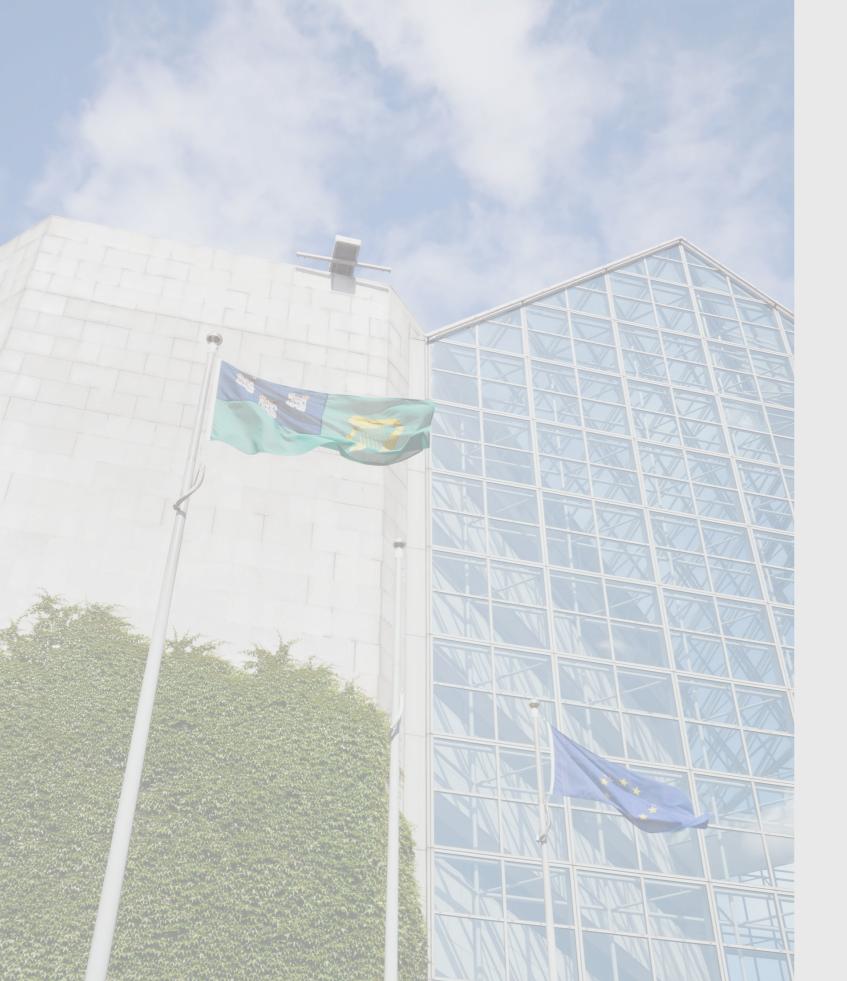
Submission to the National Recovery & Resilience Plan Public Consultation Process

FEBRUARY 22/02/2021

Dublin City Council

Comhairle Cathrach
Bhaile Átha Cliath
Dublin City Council

Foreword

Dublin City Council has great pleasure in presenting this submission to the National Recovery & Resilience Plan.

The submission addresses challenges and identified opportunities to reimagine the city and its neighbourhoods and sets out how key parts of the city can be regenerated, through investment, city greening and improved connectivity. It outlines a number of practical proposals which the Council believes will contribute significantly to the target areas identified by the European Commission and set out in the six EU pillars and the seven EC Flagships areas. It also speaks to some of the key actions needed to keep the Dublin economy performing as the engine room of the Irish economy and to ensure its long-term recovery and resilience.

The ambitious priorities set out in the submission, include proposals that will have both a short and medium term impact. The proposals take account of an evaluation of the challenges and opportunities facing the city. They represent a clear plan of action for the City Council to support and deliver the recovery and resilience of the city and to respond to the defining global and local environmental, social and economic challenges and opportunities of our time.

The proposals cover the areas of Energy Efficiency; Digital Transformation; Greening & Biodiversity; Flood Defenses and Resilience; Public Realm; and Wellbeing with proposed projects across a number of Departments to the total value of €464.2M.

Should Dublin City Council be supported by national Government and the European Union via the Recovery and Resilience Facility, the practical actions outlined in this submission will contribute to the recovery and resilience of the city, with a particular focus on Dublin city centre. Significant multiplier and secondary benefits of delivering on these proposals are also anticipated. The City Council is confident that these interventions will be a catalyst for a recovery in the Dublin economy for the benefit of local residents, local businesses and the wider population in the metropolitan area as well as the country as a whole.

Owen P Keegan
Chief Executive

Hazel Chu
Lord Mayor of Dublin

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A. BRIEF

This submission is made to inform Ireland's National Recovery and Resilience Plan (NRRP) as per the invitation from the Department of the Taoiseach published on 2nd February 2021.

This submission is a response to the two questions being asked in this consultation namely:

1. Taking into account the guidance provided by the European Commission, what are the areas Ireland should prioritise for 1) investments and 2) reforms for inclusion in our National Recovery and Resilience Plan?

2. Of the Country Specific Recommendations received by Ireland in 2019 and 2020, which are considered the most relevant for reflection upon in Ireland's National Recovery and Resilience Plan? (p7)

The aim is to present practical suggestions how the city of Dublin with the support of Dublin City Council can utilise the EU facility to mitigate the economic and social impact of the pandemic and make one of the important local economies and societies in Europe more sustainable, resilient and better prepared for the challenges and opportunities of the green and digital transitions.

In particular, the following guidance from the Department of the Taoiseach is at the heart of the proposal:

"The reforms and investments proposals included in the Plan must seek to address all or a significant subset of challenges identified in the relevant country-specific recommendations received by Ireland in 2019 and 2020, which arise as part of the European Semester process. They must also be aligned with a number of EU flagship areas, including climate action and digital transitions." (p5)

The NRRP must set out a coherent package of both reforms and public investment projects in order to benefit from support and these must be implemented by 2026. The plan must devote a minimum of 37% expenditure to climate (while the remaining 63% of the plan must comply with the "do no harm" principle i.e. not undermining environmental objectives) and a minimum of 20% on digital investment and reforms.

The NRRP will cover the **six EU pillars** namely:

1) Green transition.
2) Digital transformation.
3) Smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, including economic cohesion, jobs, productivity, competitiveness, research, development and innovation, and a well-functioning single market with strong SMEs.
4) Social and territorial cohesion.
5) Health, and economic, social and institutional resilience, including with a view of   increasing crisis reaction and crisis preparedness.
6) Policies for the next generation, children and youth, including education and skills.

Plans should also seek to address **seven EC flagship areas** identified for reforms and investments by the European Commission namely:

1) **Power Up** - Frontloading and accelerating future-proof clean power generation technologies and the development and use of renewables as well as their integration through modernised networks and enhanced interconnectivity.

2) **Renovate** - Improving the energy and resource efficiency of public and private buildings that substantially contribute to achieving the EU's climate objectives, create a large number of local jobs throughout the Member States and foster digital development through smart living and metering.

3) **Recharge and Refuel** - Promoting future-proof clean technologies to accelerate the use of sustainable, accessible and smart transport, charging and refuelling stations and extension of public transport.

4) **Connect** - Fast rollout of rapid broadband services to all regions and households, including fibre and 5G networks as well as developing quantum encryption communication.

5) **Modernise** - EU-ID and key digital public services should be modernised and accessible to all. Secure and EU-wide electronic identification and authentication vis-à-vis governments and private actors and access to their services, will provide citizens with control over their online identity and data as well as enable access to online digital services. The digitalisation of public administration and services will increase the effectiveness of both.

6) **Scale Up** - The EU digital transition depends on increasing European industrial data cloud capacities and on ability to develop the most powerful, cutting edge, and sustainable processors. The aim is to double the production of semi-conductors in Europe, to produce 10 times more energy efficient processors.

7) **Reskill and Upskill** - Investments in re- and upskilling are central to supporting the green and digital transitions, enhancing innovation and growth potential, fostering economic and social resilience and ensuring quality employment and social inclusion. Investments and reforms should focus on digital skills and educational and vocational training for all ages.

This submission outlines a number of practical proposals which Dublin City Council proposes will significantly contribute in these target areas. This submission also speaks to some of the key actions needed to keep the Dublin economy performing as the engine room of the Irish economy and to ensure its long-term resilience.

This submission also includes some Dublin City Council projects that were originally submitted for the URDF scheme. The Council is awaiting an announcement of URDF projects that have been successful in obtaining funding. However, it is likely that a number of City Council projects will not be approved for URDF. It is the Council's ambition to proceed with as many of its projects as early as possible and on a phased basis if necessary. The Council has identified the city centre as its priority core area for resilience and recovery and to accelerate project implementation, the Council is exploring all funding opportunities and has included its priority projects in this submission for the NRRP.

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B. CONTEXT

Dublin, as the State's capital, performs a significant economic, administrative and cultural role. It is a young, vibrant city that operates as an international City and gateway to the European Union for many businesses - multi-national corporations as well as export-oriented local SMEs. It is home to significant health, education, retail, cultural and entertainment facilities and attractions. The administrative area of Dublin City Council has a population of 554,554 which has been growing at an estimated average rate of 1.5% pa since the 2016 census. 20% of the population is 19 years old or younger, making it one of the youngest capital cities in the EU.

Highly skilled workers are attracted to Dublin for its many career opportunities, with 22% of the population born outside of Ireland. It benefits from a highly educated workforce with 40% educated to third level or higher. It is also a digitally connected city, where 95% of households have fixed broadband.

Dublin is performing well in a highly competitive global environment for the attraction of investment and talent. Foreign Direct Investment plays a significant role in the city's economy. Dublin is ranked no. 2 globally for 'Business Friendliness' and no. 1 for 'European Headquarters' by fDi. Dublin is home to some of the most influential multinational corporations, with substantial clusters in technology, finance and professional services. Within Dublin Docklands, there are over 500 firms operating, including more than half the world's top 50 banks and top 20 insurance companies. Dublin is also a major global hub for fund administration, aircraft leasing, insurance and a range of wholesale banking activities. It takes however considerable effort and determination from all stakeholders to hold Dublin's position in the global rankings and to continue to invest in the development of our enterprise eco-system. For more on investing in Dublin, see dublin.ie/invest.

Dublin is a gateway to Ireland and the European Union and this underpins the city's position as a major economic driver for Ireland, accounting for 41% of the country's GVA. It is a predominately services driven economy, which make up approximately 80% of business activity. For more on the city economy, see dublineconomy.ie.

Dublin is also an innovative city. The Smart Docklands District, launched jointly by Dublin City Council and Trinity College Dublin's CONNECT research centre in 2018, is an example of continued investment in the City, ensuring that Dublin is ready for the future. For more, see smartdublin.ie.

According to the Financial Times 2020 Index of Tech Cities of the Future, Dublin ranks no. 3, just after London and Paris and before Amsterdam, Berlin and Munich as a major tech city of the future in Europe.

Dublin's global reputation can be measured using a range of published international ratings, which are a useful means of measuring the city's performance relative to its peers. In 2020 Dublin confirmed strengths and weaknesses across a range of dimensions. In Property Investment, Dublin was ranked 12th in Europe for its attractiveness and development prospects by Urban Land Institute and PwC. Robust demand for student accommodation and rental housing remained strong, while the outlook for the office market was negative with concerns raised over rising vacancy rates.

Dublin also ranks well as an Innovative City coming ahead of Berlin, London and New York ranking 15th in the Ambr Eyewear World's Most Innovative Cities. This strong performance was driven by Dublin's rankings for creativity (4th globally), education (10th) and technology and media job opportunities (15th).

Areas for improvement included connectivity where the cost and speed of Dublin's internet resulted in the city ranking 46th out of 50 global locations. Dublin's Smart City ranking dropped four places to 34th in the world in 2020 IMD Smart City Index. The decline was precipitated by issues around traffic congestion and housing, while performing well in areas such as availability of good schools, cultural activities, outdoor amenities and importantly job creation.

The Housing Affordability challenge saw Dublin perform poorly placed 58th out of 66 countries globally in the latest InterNations Best Cities for Expats rankings. Dublin ranked in last place worldwide on the Finance & Housing Index, with over three quarter of respondent describing housing in the Capital as unaffordable and hard to find.

Dublin did perform well for certain metrics, including career opportunities (1st globally), job security and work-life balance (both 15th). Further information on Dublin's International Rankings is available from the Dublin Economic Monitor www.dublineconomy.ie.

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c. MAIN CHALLENGES

The main challenges that threaten disruption of the economic, social and environmental conditions in the city of Dublin, can be summarised as follows:

• Climate change resulting in more and more incidents of extreme weather conditions and rising sea levels that leads to devastation of infrastructure and the built environment and to the severe disruption of services.
• The management at city level of the ubiquitous uptake of new technologies, which are the major driver for new economic development, especially to manage the disruption of traditional sectors and the emergence of a digital divide among residents.
• A shortage in the supply of affordable and social housing which exacerbates the pressure on especially young and middle class families to acquire homes in the city and its suburbs.
• A set of trends that are disrupting the economy of the city centre, especially its retail and hospitality, including the impacts of Covid19 – specifically the collapse of the night-time economy and the shift to remote working; consumers shifting to online shopping; and the underutilisation of buildings for residential use.
• Threats to the revenue streams of local government.
• The impact of Covid19 range from the above mentioned impacts on retail and people working in the city centre to the shutting down of the construction and the hospitality sectors. It is also anticipated that the post-Covid19 'return to normal' will be different with a more explicit consumer demand for health and safety requiring significant adjustments for example to the ventilation in buildings.

a) Climate Change

Dublin City's geographic characteristics make it vulnerable to sea level rise, flooding, extreme weather events, and urban heat islands (i.e. urban areas that are significantly warmer than their surrounding rural areas due to human activities). Considering future projections for climate change, the city will face increased vulnerability and risk associated with rising temperatures and increasing frequency of extreme weather events. It is anticipated that these risks will be exacerbated by population growth which will drive demand for housing, water, energy and food, placing pressure on land-use in the city.

Dublin City Council's Climate Action Plan 2019 -2024 (CCAP) articulates how the city is responding to the climate crisis by focusing on the areas of energy & buildings, transport, flood resilience, nature-based solutions and resource management. Building resilience to climate change calls for plans and actions to be adaptive, responsive, flexible, and just. In recognition of this Dublin's CCAP is a living document enabling the city to nimbly respond to unanticipated challenges and opportunities, such as the COVID pandemic.

Dublin City Council recognises that its role is to help the city's built environment to be physically resilient. It also has to work with other key agencies to promote the physical, mental and social wellbeing of people – key foundation for the resilience of the city.

Fundamental to the city's response to climate change is the collaboration of stakeholders on actions to address vulnerabilities created by climate change. The aim should be a just transition to a new low carbon climate resilient future dependent on people working in concert to respond to the vulnerabilities created by climate change and actively contributing to the development and implementation of policy.

The principal goals are to significantly improve clean and renewable energy use by the Council that will reduce the Council's greenhouse gas emissions by 40% by 2030; to make the city more climate-resilient with projects that will help the city to withstand future climate change-related impacts; and to actively engage and inform citizens on climate change.

b) Digital Transformation

The widespread use of information and communication technologies have created a momentum for change in the preferences and habits of the general public leading to significant growth in the use of online services. On a global scale it is evident that cities who can adapt more quickly, have a competitive advantage.

The impact is largely positive with regard to efficiencies and availability of services. It is also disruptive for traditional sectors who are slow to adapt. There is also a 'digital divide' of haves and have-nots that can lead to exclusion, especially among older age groups and people living in disadvantaged areas.

Furthermore, the challenge for the key stakeholders in the city including Dublin City Council is that if the rollout of infrastructure to support new digital technologies do not keep up with the pace of change and specifications of these technologies, disappointment and frustration will set in among the broader public as consumer demand continues to grow.

c) Affordability of Housing

The challenges to provide adequate social and affordable housing in Dublin is a topic that receive regular attention in the media and among politicians from all parties.

Even though over 40 Strategic Housing Developments (SHDs) have been granted permission on infill brownfield sites throughout the City in the past five years, there are however, large areas of the City, well served by existing and proposed infrastructure and public transport, that remain undeveloped or underdeveloped. Concentrations of underutilised lands are evident in a number of areas of the City such as the Liberties, the North East Inner City and the Naas Road area.

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To ensure an integrated development process where aspects such as housing, work places, transport, water and drainage, communications connectivity and the development of key amenities are all addressed, impact on the speed to progress new housing developments. In particular, developments of significant size that can address the shortages are also dependent on the progress being made with major infrastructure projects such as the Bus Connects, Luas expansion and the Metrolink public transport schemes.

It is national policy to plan for compact growth. The reasons are compelling ranging from the minimising of the impact on the natural environment to the improved efficiencies in services. This means changes to the traditional house building patterns. The resistance to change however also leads to delays and disputes which slows down the process of obtaining planning permission. The cumulative effect of these conditions and processes are often delays in construction and increases in costs.

d) City Centre

The population in the city centre of Dublin is continuing to become younger, more diverse and cosmopolitan. City centre retail, amenities and services will have to adapt to their needs. For

example, a high proportion of the population are living alone, which could give rise to loneliness as a major mental health issue.

Both the EMRA Regional Spatial Economic Strategy and the existing Dublin City Development Plan acknowledges the primacy of Dublin City Centre for commercial development. Creating the 'carrying capacity' for new development is a challenge, especially if there is not a significant reduction in car dependency among city users.

A central issue however, is that the city centre is underpopulated following a depopulation trend over decades. A priority for Dublin City Council is to work with key stakeholders to create the conditions that will entice more people to want to live in the city centre. The challenge is not only to build more housing, but to improve public spaces, local amenities and to increase the range of recreational activities that will make the centre attractive for a new residential population.

There are specific elements that will need to be improved and managed to produce better outcomes for the city centre economy. Foremost is the night-time economy and perceptions of health and safety.

e) Financial Contraints

In their Analytics Note #3 published in January 2021, the Emergency Governance Initiative (the partners are UCLG, LSE and Metropolis) concluded the following challenges for municipal finance across cities globally:

- On average cities are experiencing a 10% loss of income and a 5% rise in demand on services.
- More financially independent municipalities may have suffered higher income losses because intergovernmental transfers were among the least affected sources of revenue.
- Municipal budgets have become more volatile with implications for financial sustainability in the short to medium term.
- As a consequence of budget shortfalls, municipalities are reallocating capital investments to finance operational programmes.
- In the survey most cities expected the economic challenges amplified by the pandemic to be even more serious after the health emergency has passed.

Dublin City Council experienced a shortfall in all incomes in 2020 that support the delivery of operational services – commercial rates, parking charges, planning fees. The value of government support has not yet been confirmed but is likely to be in at or above €190m. This uncertainty of financial supports for 2022 is mirrored in the absence of certainty for 2021.

Similarly, all other capital funding sources contracted in 2020 – development levies broadly halved. There is no government assistance for this loss in funding. Only social housing projects are grant funded and such national funding has continued. All capital projects bar social housing, whether part grant funded or wholly funded by Dublin City Council, have been impacted by the lack of capital funding with increased uncertainty on commencement and scope of projects.

In the context of the National Resilience and Recovery Plan (NRRP), it will be essential that funding provided to the local government sector is made by way of grant and not borrowing. The capacity does not exist either for Dublin City Council or indeed across the local government sector, to service the quantum of borrowing required to fully engage in the NRRP.

f) Covid-19 Pandemic

The impact of Covid19 is a 'live story'. The positives include a significant reduction in car traffic in the city centre and the extensive use of public space for 'active mobility' purposes. These trends have had a positive effect on the reduction of greenhouse emissions.

The disruption caused by the Covid19 pandemic is largely the adverse impact on the city economy and the delivery of services. The major challenge is that the scale of the problem is not yet known. The Council is working from a likely scenario that includes the following assumptions (Source: City Development Plan Issues Paper):

- Ongoing restrictions in terms of international travel may reduce the volume of movement of both labour and capital between countries, thus having implications both for new Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and for mobile workers.

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- The impact on sectors such as discretionary retail, tourism, hospitality and personal services is the most severe and the implications will be long lasting where recovery will depend on changes such as improved health and safety measures.
- There is likely to be a weakening in demand in the office market at least in the short to medium term.
- Travel restrictions and limited contact hours at third level institutions will dampen the international student market.
- The delays in construction directly attributable to site restrictions will further exacerbate a crisis of housing affordability.

The Dublin economy is at the heart of the Irish economy and Covid19 restrictions have had a severe impact on Dublin businesses throughout 2020 and into 2021. Restrictions have deeply hurt specific sectors of the Dublin economy such as retail, and have driven up the number of recipients of unemployment supports in the Capital. It is difficult to make a future assessment of how's Dublin's economy can rebound due to the uncertainly of Covid19 restrictions which ebb and flow and the on-going impact of Brexit. The IMF's models assume social distancing will fade as a vaccination is rolled out fully by the end of 2022.

Technological University Dublin (TUD) has published a report in December 2020 outlining the impacts of the pandemic on Irish enterprise. One of the main conclusions is that the consumer behaviour patterns will have altered in significant ways to reduce the prospect of similar retail activity and spend which will have been the norm for instance in Dublin city centre pre-Covid19. Furthermore, the pressure on supply chains and distribution caused by the constraints on physical engagement, has created a catalyst for digital transformation.

D. MAIN OPPORTUNITIES

The challenges for the city of Dublin identified in this submission are also the conditions for opportunities to change for the better. The aim for the Dublin economy is that a broad coalition of stakeholders will work together to 'Build Back Better' in a post-Covid19 world using the crisis as an opportunity to make our services and society more resilient to face future health, environmental and economic shocks.

a) Re-imagine the city and its neighbourhoods

Foremost is the opportunity to reimagine our neighbourhoods both in the city and also in the suburbs. The existing urban structure based on separation of places to work, live and play, have become counter-productive with people living further and further from where they work or go to school or participate in leisure activities. Unfortunately this has resulted in sprawl and an overreliance on private transport by car.

In recent years the concept of the 15-minute city has been popularised especially by the initiatives of the mayor of Paris. The core idea is that a significant proportion of a city's population should live within a 15 minute radius of their work and amenities reachable by sustainable transport modes. The concept follows on from the rise of the importance of 'walkability' in US cities where sustainable living is measured to the extent where residents and visitors have a sense of freedom to walk and cycle to the destinations that are places within their reach in the city.

If Dublin is reconfigured with this vision in mind, then the goal of the significant reduction in greenhouse emissions is reachable because the need to extensively travel by car is reduced. It will also be a significant benefit to public health and safety with reductions in noise and air pollution.

b) Regeneration of key parts of the city

To deliver on such a reconfiguration will require extensive regeneration of large parts of the city. Elements of these regeneration processes could include the application of new urban design with an emphasis on a compact urban form and improved streetscapes that prioritises decluttering and better public amenity; the provision of wider pedestrian and safer cycle space; the repurposing of existing buildings whether disused or underused with an emphasis on multi-use and temporary use where appropriate; the greening of the public realm especially with extensive street tree planting schemes and identification of areas for rewilding thus contributing to more biodiversity; and the application of smart city technologies to make the management and maintenance of infrastructure much more efficient.

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c) Infrastructure investment

The city is also due for a general upgrade in its digital infrastructure that includes a widespread roll out of 5G mobile and high speed fixed fibre networks as well as the retrofitting of the housing stock with better insulation to meet higher environmental standards.

The city centre is in a process of change with further pedestrianisation of streets and the realignment of public transport to better serve the needs of commuters, especially pedestrians and cyclists. The aim is to make the centre a more pleasing experience for residents and visitors alike – a living city. This will mean the removal of on-street parking where appropriate and the creation of more cycle ways. The investments that Dublin City Council is making are also catalysts for private investment as the increased attraction value of the city centre will incentivise private developments especially to enhance the retail and hospitality offer and to increase the residential capacity in the city.

d) Greening the city

Dublin city has a reputation for green infrastructure which can be attributed to the foresight and forbearance of predecessors for hundreds of years.

This historical green DNA of the city can be a catalyst for a number of climate actions to significantly expand elements such as the number of tree canopies and urban forests to cool neighbourhoods as well as the nature-based solutions for surface water management and prevention of flooding. In addition creative projects to increase biodiversity in built environments can capture the public imagination such as starting local pollinator plans and using citizen science to identify local species and learn to protect those species.

Through initiatives such as the Dublin Biosphere and local community placemaking projects local residents can be active participants in greening the city and rebuilding biodiversity.

e) Experience the city

What will the 'new normal' be post-Covid19? What will excite local residents and workers as well as visitors about the 'offer' of the city centre? Data of retail volumes during the year of 2020 shows that where there was a limited easing of the Covid19 lockdowns, the city's hospitality sector responded well. For example, the volumes of seated diners on Saturdays from online, phone and walk-in reservations had, quite remarkably, largely recovered in the summer months - despite capacity restrictions and limited inbound tourism. (Source: Mastercard Spending Pulse)

This is an indication that the city's retail areas will continue to have attraction value post-Covid19, which can be enhanced with a suite of support activities in public spaces such as placemaking and free family entertainment and play activities, which will increase the daytime experience, together with a coordinated and managed approach at night-time to ensure the comfort and safety of diners and revellers.

f) Getting digitally connected

Building on the success of the Smart City and wider Smart Dublin regional initiatives, there is an opportunity for Dublin City Council to move beyond pilots and demonstrators to focus on large scale adoption of applications and services that take advantage of Internet of things, big data and future connectivity networks such as 5G.

Through the Smart Dublin Programme, Dublin City Council in collaboration with Enterprise Ireland has delivered one of the largest pre-commercial procurement smart city programmes in Europe namely the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Programme. This programme issued 12 challenges and worked with over 42 companies to support a range of city challenge areas from waste management, flooding, last mile delivery, smart mobility and illegal dumping. This programme has been instrumental to providing opportunities to local companies to validate technology while it has also helped change internal mindset to the potential to investment in the new technologies and accelerate digital within the organisation.

The adoption of new technologies is underpinned by the City Council's digital transformation agenda, which is focused on enabling digital service delivery, digital working and a data-driven culture. The Council's Citizen Hub initiative encompasses a new Citizen Portal for online services, a new Councillor Portal to enable digital interaction for Elected Representatives, and a new Customer Relationship Management System. This will provide the essential platform that enables online access and digital service delivery across the broadest possible range of citizen-facing services, and connects citizens with their services in new and improved ways. Other enabling initiatives, such as a new data management strategy, enhanced mobile working, as well as the opportunity for digital first and innovative approaches that have been accelerated by the adoption of remote working and the agile responses to COVID-19, form part of the Council's plans for digital transformation.

Getting digitally connected can also be essential for health and wellbeing. The creation of virtual activity hubs under the leadership of the Dublin City Sports Partnership is an excellent example of using digital tools to connect people and make them feel part of community in a time of utmost personal strain under Covid19 conditions while helping them to improve their own physical activity levels. This initiative reaches young and old, abled and disabled as well as people living in families or on their own.

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E. POLICY GUIDELINES AND CRITERIA

The Council's goals and objectives articulated in the **Corporate Plan 2020 - 2024 of Dublin City Council** provide a framework to realise these opportunities, namely:

i) To work towards achieving a green, low carbon city -
   a. By improving energy efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Dublin City Council buildings and operations and make Dublin a more climate-resilient City with engaged and informed citizens.
   b. By working in partnership with adjoining authorities and relevant stakeholders to conserve, enhance and promote the biodiversity of Dublin City.
   c. By providing robust leadership in advancing climate action at local and regional level and by showing commitment to change in our own practices.

ii) To build safe, thriving neighbourhoods –
   a. By delivering quality homes on the required scale.
   b. By creating mixed neighbourhoods that have a choice of housing type and tenure.
   c. By effectively contributing towards making housing more affordable.
   d. By addressing homelessness through three key areas of operation – prevention, protection and progression.
   e. By playing our part in ensuring safety for people in their homes, businesses and in the public realm.

iii) To continue to grow a strong, diverse economy -
   a. By proactively supporting the creation and strengthening of micro, small and medium sized enterprises in the city.
   b. By planning and providing for the future economic growth of the city by understanding and responding to new economic trends.
   c. By strengthening the competitiveness of the City Region through continued collaboration with our neighbouring authorities and building on our international connections.

iv) To promote compact growth with connected infrastructure -
   a. By taking a leadership role in collaborating with city partners to expand and build a more integrated public transport system in the city.
   b. By providing and supporting a range of alternative and emerging travel options, particularly focused on cycling and walking.
   c. By providing direction and vision around digital infrastructure provision to enable the city to capitalise on the opportunities provided by emerging technology.
   d. By encouraging and facilitating sustainable densities and best use of underutilised, vacant and brownfield land.
   e. By maintaining and enhancing our public realm providing a connected, universally accessible set of quality public spaces and connections.
   f. By, in partnership with Irish Water, managing and improving Water Services infrastructure.

v) To support and engage active, inclusive communities -
   a. By providing people with the opportunity to access outdoor recreation and natural environments through enhancing and expanding our network of parks and green spaces.
   b. By facilitating active citizenship in city communities and engagement with key stakeholders.
   c. By promoting social inclusion and diversity by working with, and empowering, groups across all sectors of the community.
   d. By improving the health and well-being of communities by increasing access to participation in sports, recreation and healthy activity.

vi) To sustain a vibrant cultural life –
   a. By celebrating and promoting the history, culture and literary traditions of the city to build on their value to the city's identity, to society and to the economy.
   b. By enabling diversity in access to arts and culture to give everyone the opportunity to participate.
   c. By facilitating educational opportunity through programmes and funding.
   d. By animating city spaces by providing and supporting a range of events, festivals and opportunities for people to celebrate and come together.
   e. By supporting and encouraging the provision of arts and cultural facilities to ensure that the cultural life of the city has the space to thrive.

vii) To become a more responsive, innovative City Council –
   a. By supporting a culture of innovation, training and development.
   b. By promoting our vision, achievements and services through improved, proactive communication.
   c. By strengthening our civic leadership role and make collaboration a fundamental part of the way we work.
   d. By continuing to focus on providing Quality Customer Service to deliver the best service possible to citizens and customers.
   e. By transforming our use of technology and data in decision-making and service delivery.
   f. By working to place human rights and equality at the core of how we perform our functions.

The type of actions to deal with the main challenges in the Dublin economy and for social cohesion in the city are furthermore addressed by the **country-specific recommendations from the European Commission** for the post-Covid19 recovery in Ireland. These can be summarised as follows:
- Support employment through developing skills.
- Increase the provision of social and affordable housing.
- Support SMEs through measures ensuring liquidity.
- Frontload mature public investment projects and promote private investment to foster economic recovery.
- Focus investment on the green and digital transition, in particular on clean and efficient use of energy, sustainable public transport, water supply and treatment, research and innovation and digital infrastructure.

In each of the above mentioned areas, Dublin City Council is a key provider.

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F. PROPOSALS

Five criteria have been applied to propose practical proposals that will address the challenges, while tapping into the opportunities and aligning with the recommendations from the European Commission, namely:

1. Choose existing actions/plans that can be accelerated to create a much more significant impact.
2. Scale successful pilots, especially innovations which are proven to make the city smarter and more efficient.
3. Ensure delivery in a short to medium term timespan – not further out than two years.
4. Give a projection of the strategic benefits of each proposal ranging from stimulating local jobs to providing new training and skills development opportunities to having multiplier effects in local supply chains and in cost savings for families.
5. Identify key stakeholders for collaboration and support.

The following areas have been prioritised:

    a) **Energy efficiency**
    b) **Digital transformation**
    c) **Greening and biodiversity**
    d) **Flood defences**
    e) **Public realm**
    f) **Wellbeing**

URDF Submissions: This submission also includes some Dublin City Council projects that were originally submitted for the Urban Regional Development Funding URDF scheme. The Council is awaiting an announcement of URDF projects that have been successful in obtaining funding.

1) Energy Efficiency

Project a: Acceleration of the implementation of the Dublin District Heating System (DDHS)

Summary:
District Heating (DH) are thermal energy networks that distributes hot water through insulated dual (supply and return) pipe lines to homes and businesses for space heating, hot water and industrial purposes. DH systems allow heat energy as distinguished from fuel to be bought and sold as a commodity.

The Dublin Waste to Energy Facility (i.e. the incinerator) is the primary heat source for the proposed network. The Facility is currently managing 600,000 tonnes of non-hazardous residual and industrial waste and export approximately 60 MW of electricity to the national grid. The boilers, turbine and condensers installed at the Facility have been designed to operate as a high efficient combined heat and power facility with the ability to export up to 90MW of thermal energy to heat buildings from day one.

Dublin City Council and the State has committed to progressing the DDHS, focusing on supplying heating to residential and commercial buildings in the Dublin Docklands and the Poolbeg Peninsula.

The Project is expected to take up to five years (between 2021 and 2026) for full installation and commissioning of the network, with customer connection and realisation of the benefits being delivered on a phased basis.

Dublin City Council has entered into discussions to secure long term demand from a hospital and university campus (c. 25 % of demand). Additionally, the planning authority has placed a planning obligation on a large new development located in the target market area to ensure the development is district heating enabled.

Ask
Estimates for construction of distribution system = €89.5m

Contribution to NRRP

Pillars:
- Green Transition,
- Smart Sustainable and inclusive growth;
- Social and territorial cohesion;
- Health and economic, social and institutional resilience.

EC Flagship:
- Power Up – Clean technologies and renewables

Project b: Phase Two Completion and Expansion into Phase Three of the Energy Efficiency Retrofitting Programme for DCC Housing

Summary:
The DCC Energy Efficiency Retrofitting Programme is designed to reduce energy consumption, greenhouse gas emissions and demands for non-renewable resources in Dublin City Council's housing stock. It also provides tenants with healthier living conditions and offers significant monetary savings on heating costs.

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The main focus is to upgrade existing housing stock with new insulation materials and with better heating distribution and monitoring of energy use. The following specific works were carried out thus far in Phase Two on 896 social houses with 2,770 houses still to be completed, namely: External Wall Insulation; 300mm Attic, Tanks and Pipes Insulation; Roof and Wall Ventilation; Draught Proofing; Replacement of Windows and Doors; Installation of Hot Water Cylinders; and installation of Heat Pumps.

The Programme started in 2013 when Phase One commenced and was completed in 2018 with 8,057 social houses upgraded at a cost of €14.8 Million which was 100% funded by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government.

Phase Two of the Programme is only partially funded by the Department with Dublin City Council expected to contribute €25m. To accelerate the project will require frontloading the funding targeted for Phase Three so the existing tender can be extended to start in 2021/22 and run through to 2030. The target for Phase Three is to do a minimum of 400 units per year at a cost of €14m per annum.

Ask
Phase Two completion of 2,770 units = €25m
Phase Three frontloading for completion of another 2,000 units by 2026 = €70m

Contribution to NRRP

Pillars:
- Green Transition,
- Smart Sustainable and inclusive growth;
- Social and territorial cohesion;
- Health and economic, social and institutional resilience.

EC Flagship:
- Renovate – Energy efficiency of buildings

Project c: Accelerate the deployment of Electric Vehicle Charge Points on Dublin City Council premises including public car parks

Summary:
Dublin City Council is transitioning its fleet of vehicles to fully electric by 2024. The lease arrangement on 73% of our light commercial fleet expires 2023/24 and it is proposed to replace these with light commercial EVs suitable to the workload.
This requires the installation of suitable charge points in all depots and work areas. The proposal is to install recharging infrastructure over the next two years to allow for the procurement and rollout of EVs in large numbers in 2023/24.

Furthermore, as part of the Dublin LA EV Charging Strategy, the proposal is to deploy an EVCP network across the Dublin Metropolitan Area will be aligned with mobility hubs (e-bikes/ scooters, public transport nodes).

This will enhance the capability of the city infrastructure to support sustainable urban mobility and the goal of the 15 minute city through the encouragement of car share clubs and the alignment of EV charging). It also suggests that the strategy aligns with, and would serve to reinforce, the Council's active travel objectives and would maintain/free up public realm space; a process already underway in our response to the Covid19 pandemic.

18 rapid charging hubs, each with 6 charge points, are proposed, to be located in DCC owned public car parks and facilities both in the City Centre and across the five locally managed areas, with approximately 50% in the city centre and the remaining hubs located in the outlying areas.

The general model for each hub is to have six charge points varying from 22KW to 175KW that will serve local residents (open all night), business (including car share clubs and taxis), and service/facility users.

State aid limitations notwithstanding, there appears to be more scope for capital investment from central Government in EVCPs that are located on Council owned land and such assistance is under active consideration.

Ask
Total costs including equipment, power supply, cabling, ducting and general civil works = €16.7m
Contribution to NRRP

Pillars:
- Green Transition,
- Smart Sustainable and inclusive growth;
- Health and economic, social and institutional resilience.

EC Flagship:
- Recharge & Refuel - electric and hydrogen chargers

Project d: Piloting a 'digital ring' in the Cherry Orchard neighbourhood as a means to create an energy efficient, low carbon circular economy in housing construction.

Summary:
Dublin City Council has partnered with IES to develop a positive energy neighbourhood in Cherry Orchard, as part of an application for EU Funding. The overarching concept for the project is to pilot the concept of a 'digital ring' which endeavours to introduce circular economy principles into the construction sector. The digital ring is a framework that enables the full valorisation of low carbon materials, technologies and processes from the planning and financing phases to the end-of-life repurposing. In other words providing a full lifecycle assessment of the impact all project inputs in various combinations, allowing for decisions to be made based on their carbon emissions, energy efficiency, social, environmental and economic impacts.

Further, the Dublin pilot specifically targets social housing with households in energy poverty combining the provision of on-the-ground administrative and technical support along with ability to co-design innovative solutions for the most suitable renovation technologies.

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This project will bring to fruition social and economic opportunities that will be aligned with the principles of a just transition.

The project is to be completed over 5 years. It will begin with a 15 month process of community engagement to fully understand the needs of citizens and co-design solutions. Based on this process works will commence in the second year in month 16. The long timescales for community engagement and its continuation after works commence is essential. The project will involve providing the community with improved housing, access to green spaces and transport routes, continuous engagement and collaboration are essential to this.

The potential initiatives to be co-designed with community input:
- Investigating the potential for extending the Anaerobic Digestion technology to horse manure and associated waste from horse bedding. As well as determine the potential to including connection to a new build.
- Use of turning local waste into heat for existing and new buildings, and the potential of food waste for heat generation.
- High performance retrofit to ensure Cherry Orchard is an exemplar decarbonisation zone that uses digitalisation of the construction sector and modern methods of construction.
- Retrofit of 500 homes as part of a sustainable energy community.
- Construction of new positive energy buildings, with a target of 200 residential units and 3 commercial buildings.
- Introduction of digital e-bus solution for the community of Cherry Orchard. Using the expertise of GaiaGO, the experiences of Cherry Orchard residents will be explore and used to inform other initiatives across the city in support of the New European Bauhaus initiative.

Ask
€20m

Contribution to NRRP

EC Pillars:
- Green Transition,
- Digital transformation
- Smart, sustainable and inclusive growth
- Social and territorial cohesion
- Health and economic, social and institutional resilience

2) Digital transformation
Project e: Transforming the existing lighting infrastructure in Dublin city into a smart lighting and small cell infrastructure system to support 5G telecoms in the city

Summary:
The impact of Covid-19 has highlighted the importance of current and future connectivity needs. In a world where remote working is a necessity, we need to future proof our cities, towns, and communities, to support more flexible working options in a way that protects Ireland's future competitiveness. Cities like Dublin are also moving towards an increasingly connected society driven by the Internet of Things (IoT), Artificial Intelligence and Big Data.

The application and impact (both societal and economic) of these emerging technologies, however, will be reliant on the unimpeded 'gigabit' connectivity that 5G will provide.

Dublin City Council's deployment of a 5G testbed in the Docklands has highlighted importance of local authorities to support the deployment of small cell infrastructure. Unlike previous generations of mobile network technology that were mostly based on low-band spectrum, 5G is being deployed in higher frequency bands in order to provide a dramatic capacity increase. The only way to achieve a high level of network density is to radically reduce the size of these sites (referred to as small cells) so that they can be installed on street furniture such as lighting assets, bins and bus stops.

Dublin City Council is establishing a telecoms unit to accelerate Dublin's recovery potential and to leverage the broader innovation potential of gigabit and 5G connectivity. This project will scale the existing best practice work underway in the docklands area to the wider administrative area of Dublin City Council in the next five years as per the city's new five-year future connectivity plan.

The DCC telecoms unit will also play a critical role in the coordination between stakeholders such as mobile operators, infrastructure providers and local authorities in the design, planning and deployment phases of 5G so as to strengthen the future competitiveness and potential of the city economy.

At the same time the existing lighting infrastructure can be significantly upgraded using LED technology that has advanced significantly in recent years. It is no longer acceptable to emitting light in all directions in the hope that the required light actually reaches the area that it is intended. The use of LED lighting can and will greatly reduce the negative effects that uncontrolled light causes, giving rise to undesired environmental issues such as Sky Glow, Light Glare, and Light Spill. Furthermore, the reductions in energy consumed as a direct result of upgrading to LED technology can lead to a financial saving of more than 50%.

It is envisaged to deploy a city wide extendable open protocol intelligent Central Management System (CMS) for the entire City of Dublin where all lighting infrastructure will be interconnected with several possibilities for managing of lighting as well as other smart Internet of Things (IoT) services.

Ask
Total works to transform existing infrastructure and deploy new telecoms unit and CMS = €69.7m

Contribution to NRRP

Pillars:
- Green Transition,
- Digital transformation
- Smart, sustainable and inclusive growth
- Health and economic, social and institutional resilience;
- Policies for the next generation, children and youth, including education and skills.

EC Flagship:
- Connect – Rollout of rapid broadband services

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3) Greening and biodiversity

Project f: Significant expansion of the green infrastructure in Dublin city centre and use of citizen science for effective stewardship of local environments

Summary:
The residents of the inner city and the people working in the city centre have a basic need for better green infrastructure providing focal meeting points, green spaces, flood resilience and good air quality. Investment in such infrastructure will make a dramatic impact creating healthier living and working conditions and a better quality of life.

Several factors have contributed to a poor situation in the city centre and especially in the inner city neighbourhoods such as combined sewer systems impacting on water quality, poor air quality, extremely high soil sealing ('concreting'), low carbon sequestration, low tree canopy cover, low habitat diversity, high transport emissions, flood risk and social deprivation.

Furthermore, high nutrient runoff leads to the release of untreated or partially treated sewage to watercourses, which together with flooding due to of lack of stormwater attenuation and green spaces, negatively impact on protected species and habitats of international importance in Dublin Bay, a UNESCO Biosphere.

According to recent EPA reports in 2019 and 2020, concentrations of NO2 at many locations in Dublin city centre are potentially above EU NO2 annual limit value of 40μg/m3 (micrograms per cubic metre), resulting in air pollution with health risks for the local population.

The results of a study by UCD Geography Dept in 2014 showed that Dublin city centre has the lowest overall green infrastructure (GI) points scored for cities in Ireland and the second lowest tree canopy cover of all the European capital cities. In response local Greening Strategies were developed in The Liberties, North East Inner City, Stoneybatter, and the Markets. To date, partial implementation of these Greening Strategies have produced the 'day-lighting' of 16,000m2 of hard stand paving; the planting of 600 mature trees and the provision of two new public parks. The complete roll-out of the four strategies will help to address the historic deficit and improve the liveability and resilience of the city and the health of the people who reside there.

The green infrastructure plan-making process generated several community engagement activities, which in aggregate showed a demand from the communities of the inner city for the provision of green infrastructure that greatly exceeds the existing budget allocation.

Furthermore, in collaboration with other Dublin local authorities, a build-out of a large-scale citizen science and environmental monitoring programme for Dublin is in train. This will be delivered by building on the **'Academy of the Near Future' initiative**, a partnership between Dublin City Council and TCD and UCD, which are empowering citizens and communities to deploy sensor kits that can collect data, deliver new insights and empower / influence local government to drive change and influence policies.

The outcome of the project will be that the local residents and businesses will have access to live data on tree canopy cover, carbon sequestration, stormwater attenuation volumes, provision of habitat and food resources for wildlife, amelioration of wind, noise and air pollution abatement, species composition and potential thermal cooling.

If fully funded, the following actions will be taken to dramatically improve the green infrastructure in the city centre:

- Acceleration of the implementation of the existing Greening Strategies including the planting of an additional 6,040 trees.
- Redesign and reconfigure existing streets to introduce spaces for new tree planting to ameliorate air pollution, trap pollutants, store surface water to increase investment and biodiversity.
- Development of an extensive citizen science programme where local residents become stewards of their local environments with the monitoring of air quality and tree health using digital technologies as well as developing skills to be active stewards of local green infrastructure.
- Completion of the Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems Strategy for the city centre by a multi-disciplinary team to provide the technical specifications for future developments and rectification.
- Implementation of an educational strategy to include digital learning, citizen science for collection of environmental data and raise environmental awareness among residents in the inner city.
- Facilitation of placemaking to develop the concept of time and space for street play and games as part of children and young people's engagement with the built and natural environment.

The project will make a fundamental contribution to the improvement of the conditions for public health in one of the worse affected areas in Ireland while also showing the country's firm commitment to the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Ask
Total works to transform existing infrastructure and deploy new telecoms unit and CMS = €69.7m

Contribution to NRRP

Pillars:
- Green Transition,
- Digital transformation
- Smart, sustainable and inclusive growth
- Social and territorial cohesion;
- Health and economic, social and institutional resilience;
- Policies for the next generation, children and youth, including education and skills.

EC Flagship:
- Reskill & Upskill – Education and training in green and digital transition skills

Project g: Increasing the permeability and walkability of Dublin city with a greenway from Broadstone on the northside to the Grand Canal on the southside

Summary:
The proposal is to develop a high quality and attractive dedicated pedestrian and cycle route and greenway through the north and south inner city from Broadstone to the Grand Canal. An integral part of the proposal is to provide urban regeneration along the route to reinforce existing communities in the north and south inner city and create the basis for an attractive and vibrant regeneration of the fruit and vegetable market district in the north inner city which has declined over the last two decades.

This infrastructure will be a high quality, sustainable and inviting route for residents, commuters, students and tourists. The renewed activity and interest will drive significant urban regeneration along the route and its wider catchment.

The development of the Grangegorman campus of Technological University Dublin will bring a significant new population of students and staff to the area. While Grangegorman enjoys excellent public transport links to the city by LUAS or bus, the walking and cycling facilities are poor - being mostly along busy vehicular roads. The development of this proposal will provide an attractive alternative green route, which is both sustainable and safe, for travel to and from the campus, linking the campus to north and south inner city and between the Grand and Royal Canal.

The proposed scheme will include a new pedestrian bridge across the River Liffey and establish a new and highly visible facility within the inner city, connecting people, communities and destinations, and catalysing regeneration. It will be exemplar in its design and will underpin the repositioning and renewal of these parts of the north and south inner as a highly attractive, liveable and enjoyable place to live, work and visit.

Ask
Design and build = €27m

Contribution to NRRP

Pillars:
- Green Transition,
- Smart, sustainable and inclusive growth
- Social and territorial cohesion;
- Health and economic, social and institutional resilience;
- Policies for the next generation, children and youth, including education and skills.

4) Flood defences and Resilience

Project h: Increase the provision of nature-based solutions including street swales, rain harvesting and more public space to create improved flood resilience in the city centre

Summary:
Over the last number of years there has been a dramatic increase in flooding events across the Dublin region.

This proposal is based on the multi-disciplinary approach from Dublin City Council to address structural and systemic issues to strengthen flood defences and the resilience of the local environment to be able to adapt to the changing weather patterns i.e. heavier rainfall events that are posing existential risks to our local habitat for all species.

Four main areas need priority attention in the city centre namely pluvial flooding, water and air pollution and biodiversity loss. The Dublin City Council sections of Parks, Biodiversity and Landscape Services; Water Framework Directive Office; Flood Projects and Smart Cities are collaborating to deliver a range of interventions.

The aim is to expand the capacity of the city centre to retain surface water. Street swales can store around 250 litres of rain water per m2 of surface area. The proposed development of 21,655m2 of extra swales will store around 5,400m3 of rainwater, thereby preventing this quantity of dilute foul sewage and other pollutants from the combined sewer network getting into the city's watercourses and into Dublin Bay Biosphere.

The further development of 14,600m2 of public open space will further reduce flooding and sewage spillages into local water bodies by at least a further 1,500m3 as well as providing areas of local interest, local biodiversity and improved air quality.

The project area has almost exclusively a combined sewer drainage network. This means that the foul drainage and the stormwater are in one drainage pipe network. This network, much of which is over 100 years old, can only take a limited amount rainwater before it is full and overflows into waterbodies. Even moderate rainfall causes combined sewer overflows and flooding locally. The proposal is to engineer new water works to separate surface water flow so as to not enter into sewerage systems.

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Having access to timely information to help prioritise responses is critical for emergency management. While having access to a dense network of sensors and historical data can help modelling and predictive analytics which can support emergency planning and response. The evolution of internet of things and battery powered sensing allows cities and policy-makers access to real time environmental data that can support better decision making and policies.

The Dublin Smart City programme has delivered a number of active pilots and demonstrators to address flooding and climate resilience. The Gully Monitoring Challenge was launched in 2017 to seek innovative solutions that could improve local authority responses to flooding. It was a partnership between Dublin City Council and Enterprise Ireland, as part of Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Programme and working closely with the gully monitoring team Dublin City Council. This involved the co-design of low-cost devices with the City Council with local companies Danalto and mSemicon to pilot 50 bespoke, low-cost gully sensors. The proposal is to scale this successful pilot to cover all gullies in the city centre.

Ask
The costs for scaling the successful pilots and public space improvements = €8.9m

Contribution to NRRP

Pillars:
- Green Transition,
- Digital transformation;
- Smart, sustainable and inclusive growth
- Social and territorial cohesion;
- Health and economic, social and institutional resilience;
- Policies for the next generation, children and youth, including education and skills.

Project i: Design of structural works and improvements to enhance coastal flood defences

Summary:
The Dublin Coastal Flooding Protection Project is primarily aimed at addressing the risk from tidal flooding around the coastline and within the tidal reaches of a number of the rivers and canals.

There is currently a budget of approximately €15 million available for completion of this project. This budget will only provide the bare minimum of a flood defence, cycle path and water main to 3km of a coastal area.

The proposal is to seek additional budget to provide additionality to the project such as:
- Improved flood defence design to make it as interactive as possible with its surrounding environment and less visually obtrusive
- Enhanced landscape design to the promenade
- Additional public amenities
- Elements such as public lighting to improve usability and safety as a public amenity for local people
- Improved biodiversity and environmental measures to mitigate the overall impact of the defense

Ask
Design and build of additional elements = €15m

Contribution to NRRP

Pillars:
- Green Transition,
- Social and territorial cohesion;
- Health and economic, social and institutional resilience;

5) Public Realm

Project j: Continue to improve the public realm in the city centre as a practical response to the Covid19 conditions and the liveability of the city

Summary:
The plans and proposals to improve the public realm in the city centre predates the Covid19 pandemic, but since then have been proven to be a priority response to the needs of the population of the city during the pandemic with a prediction of a continued value placed by the population on improvements to liveability in the city centre.

The fast tracking of the public realm improvements in the following streets of the city centre are proposed:
- Along the Civic Spine in the Dame Street East Area as part of the College Green Plaza Project. The Dame Street East Area comprises the section of Dame Street between Anglesea Street and South Great George's Street; the 3 gyratory streets north of Dame Street consisting of Anglesea Street, Cope Street, and Fownes Street Upper; and the 3 streets south of Dame Street consisting of Trinity Street, Saint Andrew's Street and Church Lane – project area = 9,403m2.

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- Along the Civic Spine at Dame Street West and Lord Edward Street - project area = 7,298m2.
- Along the principal streets of the Markets Area including Mary's Lane and Little Mary's Street, Halston Street, Little Britain Street and Greek Street – project area = 12,492m2.

These plans would provide holistic detailed design guidance for public realm works to be undertaken by Dublin City Council and the National transport Authority, and leverage private sector investment by developers in regenerating the area. A suite of Part 8 planning applications will be commissioned and a programme of capital works implemented.

Proposed public realm improvements works will comprise maximising footpath widths and minimising vehicular carriageway widths, reducing traffic volumes and flow to local traffic and access only, specifying high quality natural paving materials and street furniture, restoring existing historic surfaces and features, incorporating tree-planting, biodiverse greenery and an extensive system of SUDS (sustainable urban drainage systems).

The proposals are to incorporate best practice in universal design and environmental sustainability

Ask
Planning, design and build costs =€34.6m

Contribution to NRRP

Pillars:
- Green Transition,
- Smart, sustainable and inclusive growth
- Social and territorial cohesion;
- Health and economic, social and institutional resilience;
- Policies for the next generation, children and youth, including education and skills.

Proposal K: Continue to improve the public realm in the Dublin 8 area as a practical response to the Covid19 conditions and the liveability of the city

Summary:
A Public Realm Improvement Plan is proposed for Newmarket Square, Dublin 8 and surrounding streets including Brabazon Street, Newmarket Street, Mill Street, Mill Lane and Ward's Hill.

The proposed works are designed to create a high quality, multi-functional market square and city wide destination and to improve permeability throughout the area via enhanced links across Cork Street to the north and Mill Street to the south. The aim is to encourage day and night time activities around the public open spaces and create a public realm that prioritises walking, cycling and easy street crossing with particular emphasis on pedestrian priority. It is also intended to enhance public lighting in the area to avoid blind spots and unsafe areas as well as improving and encouraging the cultural and tourist offer of Newmarket Square and its environs.

Provision is also being made for physical and environmental improvements to Meath Street and its immediate environs to support the ongoing commercial rejuvenation of this historic market street. The plan will provide for an improved pedestrian environment on the street, enhanced provision for cyclists, and will rebalance space along the street to stimulate new commercial uses and activities. The plan also includes the provision of improved services and utilities, the renewal of street furniture and the provision of tree planting and landscaping.

Ask
Planning, design and build costs =€8.2m

Contribution to NRRP

Pillars:
- Green Transition,
- Smart, sustainable and inclusive growth
- Social and territorial cohesion;
- Health and economic, social and institutional resilience;
- Policies for the next generation, children and youth, including education and skills.

6) Wellbeing

Project l: Advance a programme to establish community wellbeing hubs in targeted areas in Dublin city

Summary:
The provision of community facilities is a well-established need in many communities in Dublin city. A main factor inhibiting wellbeing is the lack of meaningful work (i.e. on a more consistent and long-term basis than 'gig' or errand work) in areas with historical high long-term unemployment.

This proposal will advance the building of new community wellbeing hubs which will be facilities that support a number of services as well as spaces for community-led initiatives. The model will be based on the learning from the development of the Ballymun Civic Centre which houses various health and wellbeing services from a number of agencies together with arts and enterprise development support facilities such as the social innovation hub.

Two specific areas will be targeted:

- **The Darndale, Belcamp and Moatview areas**

The Darndale Socio-Economic and Community Plan was drawn up in 2019-2020 in response to the escalating levels of violence in these areas of North Dublin. The flagship development will be Phase 2 of the Darndale Belcamp Village Centre including a new enterprise centre and improvements to the physical environment of the area e.g. planting, landscaping and bio-diversity projects. Cost = €17.5m

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• **Emmet Road, Inchicore**

Dublin City Council has earmarked the Emmet Road Lands as a major site for redevelopment including a flagship pilot project to provide Cost Rental accommodation. This is a new form of renting and will result in more affordable rent, for households who struggle to pay private rent. It aims to create secure housing that remains sustainable over time.

One of the key objectives is to transform the Emmet Road Area and to create a vibrant and diverse neighbourhood, to integrate with the immediate context and history as well as applying best practice to establish architecturally innovative, energy efficient, residential supplemented and supported by community facilities, including a library and crèche and a neighbourhood centre including a supermarket fronting onto the northern edge at Emmet Road.

The detailed design is driven by a placemaking agenda including promoting shared spaces that enhance the lives of both the residents and the surrounding community, and encourage social activity.

This proposal is to fund the community facility elements, by creating a community wellbeing hub that will also feature enterprise support, a library, crèche and a sporting facilities.
Cost = €21.4m

Ask
Planning, design and build = €38.9m

Contribution to NRRP

Pillars:
- Green Transition,
- Smart, sustainable and inclusive growth
- Social and territorial cohesion;
- Health and economic, social and institutional resilience;
- Policies for the next generation, children and youth, including education and skills.

Project m: Expanding the capacity for cultural regeneration that support the artist communities of Dublin as well as the creative needs of the local populations

Summary:
Wellbeing is also measured in the means to support people to culturally express themselves and connect with others. These needs can be well served with appropriately designed cultural facilities serving a range of purposes and audiences.

The overall concept is to build a Creative Campus that links to NCAD and the Digital Hub in the Liberties and forms part of the overall cultural regeneration of various sites in Dublin 8 including DCC Rates Office, Dublin Castle and Werburgh Street.

The City Arts Office received funding from the URDF to conduct a Feasibility Study on sites and building owned by DCC to provide Artists Workspaces. The site is at Bridgefoot Street and the buildings at 8 and 9 Merchants Quay. This Feasibility Study based on co-design and consultation with Artists and Local Residents will be completed in March 2021.

From the consultations it is clear that users will like to see the development to respect the heritage of the area and to reflect the Liberties' rich contribution to the city's skills, craft and trades (in particular in weaving and textiles) as well as the local community's pride in its industrious past. These values strengthen the future potential for a contemporary creative neighbourhood of makers and artists that are embedded in its community.

Those consulted also articulated that the project should not shy away from tackling challenges of meeting long-term needs, and our collective responsibility to develop greener and healthier buildings, workspaces and environment, with a shared sense of ownership for the development of future uses, governance and management.

Surveys of Artists and Community Groups have confirmed the deficit of Artists Workspaces and that community groups and Artists can share these facilities through careful planning and management. The proposed design will include Public Spaces at ground level, semi Public bookable spaces and Private spaces such as Artist's Studios.

The site on Bridgefoot Street could accommodate up to 30 Artists in private space with shared spaces for rehearsals and classes. A Public café is proposed on the ground floor. Number 8 Merchants Quay holds the old St Anthony's theatre and the building has great community Arts centre potential. Number 9 Merchants Quay, a fully restored 18th century townhouse is likely to be most suitable for administration and shared office use

Ask
Construction period of two years with a costing = €24m

Contribution to NRRP

Pillars:
- Green Transition,
- Smart, sustainable and inclusive growth
- Social and territorial cohesion;
- Health and economic, social and institutional resilience;

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G CONCLUSION

If supported by national government and the European Union via the Recovery and Resilience Facility, Dublin City Council is demonstrating with this submission how the grant funding of a set of specific practical proposals will significantly contribute to the recovery and resilience especially in Dublin city centre. The multiplier and secondary effects have not been processed due to time limitations, but Council is confident that these interventions will be catalysts and create positive momentum in the Dublin economy to the benefit of local residents, local businesses, the bigger population in the metropolitan area as well as the country as a whole.

Below is a table to show how the proposals will create a broad impact as per the framework provided:

Pillars	Flagships							Other
	Power up	Renovate	Recharge and Refuel	Connect	Modernise	Scale up	Reskill and upskill	
Green transition	A	B	C	E			F	D,G,H,I, J,K,L,M
Digital transformation				E			F	D,H
Smart, sustainable and inclusive growth	A	B	C	E			F	D,G,H, J,K,L,M
Social and territorial cohesion	A	B					F	D,G,H,I, J,K,L,M
Health and economic, social and institutional resilience	A	B	C	E			F	D,G,H,I, J,K,L,M
Policies for next generation, children & youth				E			F	G, H, J,K,L,

No	Key Proposals	Pillar	EC Flagship	Summary	Timespan	Timeframe	Budget (€ million)
1	Energy Efficiency	1, 3, 4, 5	1	Project a: Acceleration of the implementation of the Dublin District Heating System (DDHS)	Medium term 5 years	2021 - 2026	89.5
		1, 3, 4, 5	2	Project b: Phase Two Completion and Expansion into Phase Three of the Energy Efficiency Retrofitting Programme for DCC Housing	Long Term 9 years	2021 - 2030	95
		1, 3, 4, 5	1, 2	Project c: : Electric Vehicle Infrastructure: 1 DCC Depot EVCP deployment for fleet transition to meet our Carbon targets for 2030, and Possible role in public realm EVCP roll out.	Short term 2 years	2023- 2026	16.7
		1, 2, 3, 4, 5		Project d: : Piloting a 'digital ring' in the Cherry Orchard neighbourhood as a means to create an energy efficient, low carbon circular economy in housing construction.	Medium 5 years	2021 - 2026	20
2	Digital Transformation	1, 2, 3, 5, 6	4	Project e: Transforming the existing lighting infrastructure in Dublin city into a smart lighting and small cell infrastructure system to support 5G telecoms in the city	Medium 5 years	2021 - 2026	69.7
3	Greening & Biodiversity	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	7	Project f: Significant expansion of the green infrastructure in Dublin city centre and use of citizen science for effective stewardship of local environments.	Medium 5 years	2021 - 2026	16.7
3	Greening & Biodiversity	1, 3, 4, 5, 6		Project g: Increasing the permeability and walkability of Dublin city with a greenway from Broadstone on the northside to the Grand Canal on the southside	Medium 5 years	2021 - 2026	27
4	Flood Defences & Resilience	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6		Project h: Increase the provision of nature-based solutions including street swales, rain harvesting and more public space to create improved flood resilience in the city centre	Medium 5 years	2021 - 2026	8.9
		1, 4, 5		Project i: : Design of structural works and improvements to enhance coastal flood defences	Medium 5 years	2021 - 2026	15
5	Public Realm	1, 3, 4, 5, 6		Project j: Continue to improve the public realm in the city centre as a practical response to the Covid19 conditions and the liveability of the city	Short Term 3 years	2021 - 2025	34.6
		1, 3, 4, 5, 6		Project k: Continue to improve the public realm in the Dublin 8 area as a practical response to the Covid19 conditions and the liveability of the city	Short Term 3 years	2021 - 2025	8.2
6	Well Being	1, 3, 4, 5, 6		Project l: Advance a programme to establish community wellbeing hubs in targeted areas in Dublin city	Medium 5 years	2021 - 2026	38.9
		1, 3, 4, 5, 6		Project m: : Expanding the capacity for cultural regeneration that support the artist communities of Dublin as well as the creative needs of the local populations	Medium 5 years	2021 - 2026	24
	Total Project Proposal						464.2M

Priority Area:	Proposed Budget:
EC Flagship Proposals	287.6
Pillar Proposals (Non EC Flagships)	176.6
Total Proposed Budget	464.2

6 Pillars:
1. Green transition;
2. Digital transformation;
3. Smart, sustainable and inclusive growth;
4. Social and territorial cohesion;
5. Health and economic, social and institutional resilience;
6. Policies for new generation, Children & Youth

7 Flagship areas plans should seek to address:
1. Power Up - Renewal power generation
2. Renovate - Retrofitting/deep renovation
3. Recharge & Refuel – electric and hydrogen chargers
4. Connect - 5G coverage
5. Modernise – digitisation of public administration
6. Scale Up – cloud services, Big Data, semi processors
7. Reskill & Upskill - digital skills, education reform

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Appendix 2: Key Proposals Proposed Budget
Dublin City Council Submission to the National Recovery & Resilience Public Consultation Feb 2021

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