

Connecting Communities

Strategy to increase accessibility in communities and so reduce car use

Sustainable mobility plays a fundamental role in Ireland's environmental commitments as set out in the National Climate Action Plan (2021). Walking and Cycling bring added health and wellbeing benefits. Working in tandem with the National Transport Authority and other stakeholders, Dublin City Council is committed to creating a city where the private car is not the first choice and most convenient choice and where people can walk and cycle in comfort and safety. This commitment, however, will require change and adaptation by the residents of Dublin. As a growing city, Dublin must increase its sustainable mobility trips while reducing its private vehicle trips. There are many national and local strategies and policies containing actions aimed at increasing sustainable mobility, for example the Climate Acton Plan, National Sustainable Mobility Policy, National Physical Activity Plan, Climate Action Plan, Greater Dublin Area Transport Strategy, Dublin City Development Plan and Dublin Climate Action Plan. The new Strategy was developed to address gaps in current strategy and policy and provide a framework to ensure we deliver on our climate action objectives.

Strategy Development

In 2021, Dublin City Council brought together recognised leaders from both within Dublin City Council and from external agencies including An Garda Síochána, the National Disability Authority, Economic Social Research Institute, Technical University Dublin and Trinity College to form a high level advisory group to co-create guiding principles and a framework for delivery of a new walking & cycling strategy for DCC. Individual and group meetings were held to build ideas and gain consensus on key themes to be brought forward.

In parallel, presentations were given and feedback sought from the Walking & Cycling Sub-Committee. Members of the Sub-Committee also participated in a facilitated workshop in the Wood Quay Venue on the 11th of May 2022.

Key Learnings

- Many infrastructure suggestions are addressed in the Cycle Network Plan and Bus Connects but this still leaves many locations that need work.
- It is more than just about walking and cycling –we need to take a broader approach to cater for all mobility needs within communities especially the disability community, the young and the elderly.
- Overuse of the private car for the commute to school especially has multiple negative consequences on society.
- The Covid-19 pandemic enabled people to re-connect with their communities.

Connecting Communities

'Connecting Communities' is a commitment from Dublin City Council to work with residents so that people can play an active role in the city's necessary transformation over to increased sustainable

mobility. This strategy outlines how we will work with neighbourhoods to adapt, the ideas that will influence the infrastructure that will be put in place, how we will promote increased sustainable transport and how we will use information to discover what is working well in the city.

Dublin City Council recognises that this will be a complex process. Many of the straightforward enhancements and adaptations have already been completed within the city, with walkers and cyclists enjoying their use already. Much of what needs to be done next requires consultation, compromise and, most importantly, partnership working at a national and local level that brings together different forms of knowledge and expertise. 'Connecting Communities' highlights the variety of groups that have a stake in the changes that are ahead, what they stand to gain as well as the difficulties they face.

Aim

Engage a community-centred approach to progress our transition to a sustainable mobility future and achieve our sustainable mobility commitments as set out in the draft City Development Plan and DCC Climate Action Plan.

Strategic Goals

1. Engaging the City
 - Improve community engagement on sustainable mobility.
 - Create different modes of engagement.
 - Co-create sustainable mobility interventions.
2. Building and Maintaining Infrastructure
 - Prioritise Areas for Intervention - Safe Routes to School & Neighbourhood Schemes.
 - Develop a menu of potential interventions at local level.
 - Create universally designed solutions.
3. Promoting Sustainable Mobility
 - Decrease the number of short journeys made by private car.
 - Celebrate people transitioning to sustainable transport modes.
 - Create learning opportunities for people who want to walk, wheel or cycle more.
4. Learning Evaluation, Discovery
 - Build capacity to learn.
 - Evaluate outcomes of interventions and capture evidence of behaviour change.
 - Develop a better understanding of stakeholder needs.

Next Steps

Work is continuing to finalise actions and timeframe for delivery of the Strategy. The final strategy will be published following the publication of the Dublin City Development Plan 2022-2028.