Comhairle Cathrach
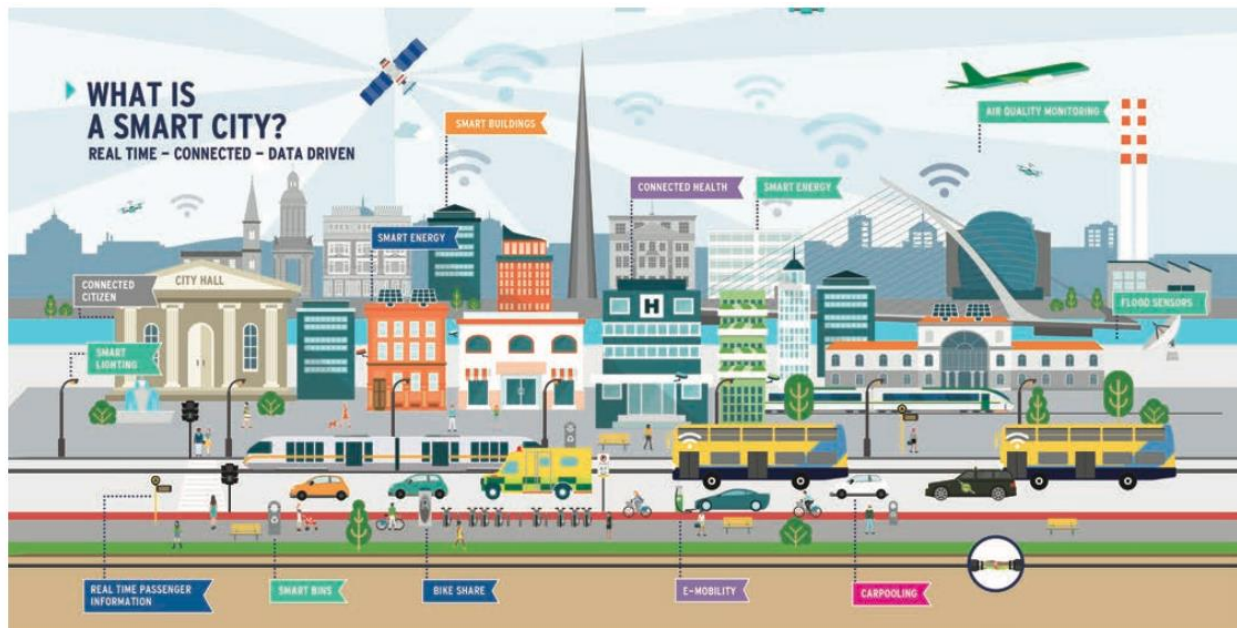**Bhaile Átha Cliath**
Dublin City Council

What is the Smart City Programme?

Smart Dublin is an initiative of the four Dublin local authorities to engage with smart technology providers, researchers and citizens to solve city challenges and improve city life. Cities and governments around the world are aspiring to be 'Smart'. While there is no clear definition of a Smart City, there are some common threads including a focus on the increased use of sensors and instruments that allow cities to be better monitored and managed in real time. A Smart City is also considered as one whose economy is increasingly driven by technology inspired innovation and entrepreneurship, that in turn will attract businesses and jobs, create efficiencies and raise the productivity and competitiveness of the public and private sectors. Smart cities also involve increased collaboration and engagement between the city authority, the academic and business sectors and, most importantly, citizens.

The creation of a Smart Dublin regional structure in 2016 was initiated to ensure that Dublin can take full advantage of some of the big tech trends that are transforming how

we live and work. These trends include Mobile, Cloud Computing, the Internet of Things (IOT), Big Data, Machine Learning and Artificial Intelligence.

One of the main ideas is to turn our city challenges into opportunities for innovation, addressing areas such as traffic congestion and mobility, how we respond to extreme weather events, improving energy efficiency and environment performance, for example. At the centre of this is also how we improve citizen engagement and drive more efficient service delivery.

Year in Review 2018

Dublin City Council's adoption of Smart technologies continued to expand over 2018 particularly in the areas of traffic management, sustainable mobility, energy, waste services and environmental monitoring. A dedicated Smart City unit within DCC work alongside City Council departments and also the wider Smart Dublin regional team to ensure that we take advantage of emerging technology trends in a way that creates better outcomes for residents as well as new economic opportunities. www.smartdublin.ie

Smart Docklands is part of Dublin City Council's fast track Smart District programme and was officially launched in February 2018 as part of a global gathering of city technology leads from over 20 cities which was convened by the Harvard TECH innovators forum. The Smart Docklands project, a partnership with the CONNECT centre for future networks based in TCD was shortlisted for Innovative project of the year at the global Smart City Expo in Barcelona in November 2018. The Smart Docklands district was created to provide a platform for start-ups, big tech, the city, and academia to come together. This initiative is supported by corporate partners such as Google, Deloitte, IBM, Accenture, Dense Air Ireland, Microsoft, Vodafone, Autodesk, Mastercard, Intel, IBM and Softbank.

In November 2018, as part of a 'Future of Mobility' festival we ran Ireland's first demonstration of a driverless shuttle along a 2km stretch on Dublin's North Quays. This generated significant interest and debate on international, national and local media.

In February 2018 we announced a flagship partnership with Dense Air Ireland at Mobile World Congress in Barcelona to build out Ireland's first next generation 5G pervasive connectivity zone across the 'Smart Docklands' District. This is a partnership with CONNECT centre for future networks and will explore the future potential of 5G as well as the challenges in deploying these networks.

In July 2018 we announced a unique partnership with Softbank, Japan to pilot and test innovative smart city technologies in Dublin. Dublin is the first location outside of Japan that Softbank have selected for this collaboration.

Dublin City Council was also a founding member city for MasterCard's global 'City Possible' programme (which launched in November 2018) This partnership will pilot and experiment on how cities can better deploy technology and data to enhance economic competitiveness and will feed into our Dublin Economic Monitor initiative.

Small Business Innovation Research Programme (SBIR)

We are continuing to support entrepreneurs through the Smart Dublin and Enterprise Ireland Small Business Innovation Research programme (SBIR). To date 42 companies received funding support totalling over €1.5 million, as well as mentoring and access to city testbed facilities. The first challenges addressed cycling, illegal dumping, wayfinding and flooding risk. Five new challenges were launched in 2018 with DCC leading on topics including Last Mile Logistics (where we partnered with Belfast city council) and Smart Mobility Hubs. Participating companies have benefited from access to expert advice and support allowing the prototyping of their solutions across Dublin in a way that will help them scale internationally.

The Smart City programme was featured extensively on international, national and local media including a documentary feature on national Swiss TV on the 'future of cities', as well as being covered on RTE 6 One news, Virgin News and Radio stations such as Q102 and Morning Ireland.

Improved Smart City Engagement and Communication within DCC

A key objective in 2019 is to develop a broader engagement and communication plan for the Smart City project. This will improve communication with DCC staff and Councillors by highlighting our aims, activities and achievements through internal newsletters (First Post), DubNet as well as regular reports submitted to SPC groups.

The communication will be paired with staff engagement and guidance. It will highlight the opportunities that exist within the digital sphere, while also ensuring that we are relevant to the changing expectations of our citizens.

The need for more robust adaptation of technological solutions is fuelled by rapid developments in innovation. We aim to evolve and to offer more customer-centric services and effectively respond to challenges facing our communities now and in the future.

We want to promote an internal culture, where staff can gain an understanding of rapidly advancing technology. We will support digital champions and collaborate to build out solutions for existing challenges, such as how we manage waste, traffic, climate change, energy and so on.

Showcasing examples of technological adoption by DCC departments are crucial in activating more extensive engagement and buy-in. We will showcase many of the successful projects such as the deployment of smart bins, smarter traffic management solutions and the delivery of enhanced environmental monitoring using sensors and the new Internet of things technologies.

The Smart City engagement programme moves beyond the existing department silos and connects the council with external communities, NGOs, academia and businesses to solve complex challenges. We will continue to use external communications to deliver messaging across our social platforms Twitter, LinkedIn as well as on the website, Smartdublin.ie.

WiFi4EU / Delivery of Wifi zones for teenagers.

Dublin City Council was successful in achieving a maximum allocation of four vouchers worth €15,000 each as part of the recent WiFi4EU funding call. The Department of Rural and Community Development will match the funding provided by the European Commission, doubling the value of the investment in public Wi-Fi networks to €120,000.

The WiFi4EU initiative will promote free access to Wi-Fi connectivity for citizens in public spaces including squares, libraries, community centres, family homeless hubs, public parks, leisure centres, sports development and art facilities.

The vouchers can only be installed in areas that are not equipped with a free Wi-Fi hotspot. The equipment and installation costs of Wi-Fi hotspots will be covered under this initiative.

Each successful local authority now has 18 months to select locations for the WiFi4EU hotspots and complete their installation to be ready for public use. The selected Local Authority body will be responsible for paying for the connectivity (internet subscription), maintenance and operation of the equipment for at least three years.

The Smart City team is currently considering different allocations of those vouchers across the four local authority local areas. We want to ensure that the Wi-Fi distribution impacts positively on communities, particularly those areas which have limited access to the Internet. This will also support our digital inclusion agenda.

Consultation process

We plan to roll out an online consultation for councillors, the wider public and interested stakeholders to establish the most suitable locations for this project that will deliver the most significant impact.

A set of criteria will identify these locations ensuring maximum value that this service could bring to local communities. For example, we will prioritise the following:

- Addressing areas where there are gaps in the provision of Wi-Fi across community and DCC facilities.
- Supporting teenagers and young people, particularly those in areas where there are low levels of internet connectivity, as recorded by the Central Statistics Office (CSO).
- Demonstration of alignment with digital training programmes. For example, planned delivery of educational programmes could help bridge the digital divide and maximise the usage of this facility, will strengthen each case submitted for consideration.
- Consider any potential issues in getting access to buildings (power and connectivity) to ensure good quality of service.

We plan to start this consultation process in March/April 2019, to be delivered through an online survey.

Following the initial consultation process in March/April 2019 we will review the suggestions and feedback with an independent review panel to ensure that the locations are selected in a clear and transparent manner. The final locations will be approved through each of the local area committees. There will then be a tender and market consultation period from May-July 2019, with a view to an implementation phase from autumn 2019 onwards.

We would appreciate any feedback you have on this proposal and look forward to working with you on delivering the Wifi4EU project.

Jamie Cudden
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