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1. International Relations:

International Relations acts as first point of contact for city, business and government visiting delegations from other cities and also to provide support to the Lord Mayor's office on international relations matters. As a result of COVID 19 and the impact on international relations, delegations are not currently visiting the city. However our work is continuing remotely where possible.

2. Local Enterprise Office: Training, Mentoring & Financial Grants

LEO Response Supports for COVID

An overview of the suite of supports for business and enterprise is included in Appendix 1 of the report. Throughout the lockdown and emergency period, the Local Enterprise Office network has provided LEO Lunch and Learn webinars which are available at <https://www.localenterprise.ie/response/Lunch-and-Learn-Training-Webinar-Series/>

BREXIT Supports

a handy guide to Brexit supports, which are available through Dublin City Local Enterprise Office are available at <https://www.localenterprise.ie/Discover-Business-Supports/Brexit/> to assist businesses manage their Brexit response through –

- Scorecards and checklists to help with planning
- One-to-one mentoring
- Customs Training
- Financial supports
- Access to worldwide support networks
- Practical Steps to getting your Business Brexit Ready

Measure 2 Statistics: Business Advice, Training & Mentoring:

Training

Dublin City Local Enterprise Office has moved its training programmes, workshops and networking meet-ups online, and has adapted its programme to reflect business requirements in response to COVID-19. Participation levels and feedback to date has been positive. The focus has moved towards supporting businesses respond to the growing demand to move their business online/ enhance their current online offering. The areas covered are: "Act Fast - How to launch an online programme quickly during COVID19" and "Ecommerce Online - best practice for your business in a digital age". Other courses include Pricing in a pandemic - challenges & issues and leading your business through COVID-19 and advice for employers impacted by the crisis. Fees for the training programmes have been reintroduced. As they are heavily subsidised only nominal fees are being charged to encourage participation. Places can be booked online, through the Dublin City Local Enterprise Office website. <https://www.localenterprise.ie/DublinCity/Training-Events/Online-Bookings/>

Training Courses:

Undertaken June 2020

Date	Course Title	Attended	Places	%
02/06/2020	Start Your Own Business June	30	30	100.00%
03/06/2020	Digital Communications Post COVID-19	30	30	100.00%
04/06/2020	Business Advice Clinic	18	18	100.00%
08/06/2020	Act Fast - How to launch an online programme quickly during COVID19	31	31	100.00%
10/06/2020	Business Advice Clinic	11	18	61.11%
10/06/2020	Ecommerce Online - best practice for your business in a digital age	27	200	13.50%
15/06/2020	Start Your Own Business June	30	30	100.00%
16/06/2020	How to reopen your business safely post COVID-19	35	35	100.00%
16/06/2020	Business Advice Clinic	18	18	100.00%
17/06/2020	Smart phone video & photography for the web - half day	30	30	100.00%
22/06/2020	COVID19 Lead staff representative for phase 3 reopening	30	20	150.00%
23/06/2020	Pricing in a pandemic - challenges & issues	14	25	56.00%
24/06/2020	Business Advice Clinic	23	18	127.78%
24/06/2020	Facebook & twitter for business	30	30	100.00%
25/06/2020	Ecommerce Online - best practice for your business in a digital age	10	140	0.071429
		367		

Undertaken July 2020

Date	Course Title	Attended	Places	%
01/07/2020	Social media content - creating content that will make your brand stand out online	30	30	100.00%
02/07/2020	Ecommerce online - best practice for your	25	25	100.00%

	business in a digital world			
08/07/2020	Business Advice Clinic	21	22	95.45%
15/07/2020	COVID 19 lead staff representative for phase 3 reopening	10	30	33.33%
16/07/2020	Business Advice Clinic	25	22	113.64%
20/07/2020	Act fast - how to launch an online programme quickly during COVID 19	10	30	33.33%
21/07/2020	SYOB July	25	30	83.33%
22/07/2020	Business Advice Clinic	22	22	100.00%
28/07/2020	Business Advice Clinic	25	25	100.00%
29/07/2020	Social Media Content Planning during COVID-19	14	30	46.67%

* as at **207**
31.07.2020

Undertaken Aug 2020

Date	Course Title	Attended	Places	%
05/08/2020	Business Advice Clinic	24	27	88.89%
06/08/2020	Register Your Interest - Modos Dublin Programme 2020	44	60	73.33%
11/08/2020	Business Advice Clinic	28	28	100.00%
12/08/2020	how to Maximise your New Website	30	30	100.00%
13/08/2020	Zoom to Improve: Tax Measure through the Government Stimulus Plan	21	25	84.00%
18/08/2020	Business Advice Clinic	27	27	100.00%
27/08/2020	Business Advice Clinic	27	27	100.00%
28/08/2020	Register Your Interest - Modos National Programme 2020	32	100	0.32
	Total	233		

Start Your Own Business Training Courses – Online delivery

This programme provides individuals who are seeking to start their own business with the skills, management tools and expertise in making the right decisions, planning and organising effectively. It helps individuals gauge what will be required in order to keep their new venture running effectively and efficiently.

Date	Course	Participants
27/07/2020	Start Your Own Business July	25

Forthcoming training courses Sept 2020

Date	Course Title
01/09/2020	Start Your Own Business Sept
02/09/2020	Marketing & Branding on a Shoestring
03/09/2020	Business Advice Clinic
09/09/2020	Create a WordPress website

09/09/2020	Business Advice Clinic
11/09/2020	Register Your Interest - Modos National Programme 2020: Module 1
15/09/2020	Register Your Interest - Modos Dublin Programme 2020: Module 1
16/09/2020	Smartphone & video for the web
17/09/2020	Business Advice Clinic
22/09/2020	Business Advice Clinic
23/09/2020	Instagram for Business
30/09/2020	Facebook for Business
30/09/2020	Business Advice Clinic

Mentoring

Under the Local Enterprise Office Mentor Programme, clients work with an experienced mentor to identify solutions to areas of exposure within their business. With advice and guidance from their mentor, clients develop strategies that are more robust, which address issues and maximise potential opportunities. Nominal fees have been introduced and the service continues to be delivered remotely.

Hours of quality service delivered:

2020 (as at 31/08/2020)				
Mentoring	Target	YTD	2019*	Variance
1 Hour	0	0	4	-4
3 Hour	275	329	200	129
6 Hour	300	213	25	188
Brexit	30	8	8	0
Clinics	48	33	32	1
BAC Participants	500	582	447	135
Individual mentoring	500	542	237	305
One to One & Group mentoring	1000	1124	684	440

Product no longer operational

Business Advice

BA Clinics 2020 – June to Aug

Month	Clinics	Participants
June	5	89
July	4	93
Aug	4	106

Clinics delivered: 13
Participants: 288

COVID-19 Business Continuity Voucher

The Business Continuity Voucher designed for businesses that employ up to 50 people, provides funding of up to €2,500 in the form of third party consultancy costs (at no cost to the company) that can be used to develop short-term and long-term strategies to respond to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Total No Applications Received	1298
No. Male Applicants	846
No. Male Approved Applicants	527
No. Female Applicants	452
No. Female Approved Applicants	308
No. Applications Approved	833
Value of Approvals	€2,082,500
Value of Payments	€427,807.92

(as of 31/08/2020)

Measure 1 (Grants):

Approval Metrics: January to May 2020

Type of Grant	#No of M1 Grant Applications			Jobs		Value of M1 Grants		
	Annual Target	Total # No Approved Jan - May 2020	Variance	Total Jobs Created Target - Grant Approvals	Total Jobs Created - From Grant Approvals - January - May 2020	Annual Target	Total Value M1 Grant Approved	Variance
Feasibility Grant 0% Refundable	23	27	4	23	24	172,500	202,390.00	-€29.890
Priming 0% Refundable	21	7	14	31	15	315,000	145,000.00	€170,000
Business Expansion Grant 0% Refundable	16	22	5	32	37	400,000	390,000.00	€10,000
TOTAL	60	58	2	86	76	887,500	€737,390	€302,260

Total Projected 3 year Jobs			
	Annual Jobs Target	Projected Achieved 3 yr Jobs	Variance
Feasibility	46	19	27
Priming	62	64	-2
Business Expansion	64	73	-9
Total	172	156	16

Summary of Micro Enterprise project approved by M1 Grants by LEO Dublin City: Jan – May 2020

Company	Type of Grant	Amount Approved
DeveloperFair Ltd	Priming	30,000.00
Fresh Cuts Clothing ta The Ethical Clothing Store Ltd	Business Expansion	7,500.00
Dublin Offshore Consultants Ltd	Feasibility	10,000.00
Tempo Utero Limited	Feasibility	8,000.00
Akara Robotics Ltd.	Feasibility	15,000.00
Marker Content Ltd	Feasibility	10,000.00
Akrona LTD	Feasibility	5,000.00
Sinope Tech Limited	Feasibility	8,000.00
Stork and Coco	Feasibility	6,000.00
Continuous Software Limited	Business Expansion	40,000
Kathryn Davey	Business Expansion	17,500
TLC Technologies Limited t/a SureSitter	Priming	20000
Edge Media Advertising Ltd	Business Expansion	17,500
Transit9 Limited	Business Expansion	35,000
Loanguru Limited	Feasibility	7,000
Silk Tree Botanics Ltd	Priming	10,000
Accenver Limited	Feasibility	11,000
Tripadmit Ltd	Priming	40,000
The Nature of Things	Priming	25,000
Argeau Holdings Ltd	Feasibility	8,000
Altra Health Ltd	Feasibility	9,000
Cleverfoods Ltd	Business Expansion	17500
Flamenco IL Holdings t/a RYPT	Priming	10,000
Paula Love t/a Hairbare	Feasibility	1,400
Revington Hayes Limited t/a LEI Worldwide	Business Expansion	17,500
KOTANICAL LIMITED	Priming	10,000
Digital Construction Technologies Group	Business Expansion	35,000
Komply Privacy Limited	Feasibility	10,000
ACE Golf Tee Ltd.	Feasibility	7,000
IKEO Group Ltd	Feasibility	12,000
Zazuments	Feasibility	10,000
*Inneall Development Ltd	Business Expansion	€30,000
Access Security & Control Technology t/a 2T-Technology	Business Expansion	€15,000

CLIRINX Ltd	Business Expansion	€10,000
Edge Only Limited	Business Expansion	€7,500
NovoGrid Ltd	Business Expansion	€30,000
Remotie	Feasibility	€10,000
Rag Revolution	Feasibility	€10,500
**Magneplan	Feasibility	€2,340
RTN2SNDR t/a Return2Sender	Feasibility	€8,900
Leapfrog Training Studio Ltd t/a Yoflicks	Feasibility	€7,850
Orcawise Limited	Feasibility	€10,000
Druid Learning Limited	Feasibility	€5,400
Narom Ltd t/a COGNIKIDS	Feasibility	€10,000
Motion Impulse Limited*	Business Expansion	€20,000
Allgo Global Rewards Limited t/a Allgo**	Business Expansion	€20,000
The Inkspot Limited	Business Expansion	€40,000
Promozoo Limited	Business Expansion	€30,000
31 Grants Approved	TOTAL	737,390

Trading Online Voucher: Jan – August 2020

Trading Online Vouchers:	Target 2020	January –May 2020
No. of Trading Online Vouchers Approved	120	676
Value of Trading Online Vouchers Approved		€1,625,172

TAME Metrics: January to May 2020

Technical Assistance for Micro Exporters : M1 Metrics 2020	Target 2020		January - May 2020
Grant Approvals	40		5
TAME		5	
Value of Grants Paid Out To date			9,282.56

3. Dublin Place Brand - Dublin.ie

Make A Day of It Campaign

Due to the dramatic drop in footfall numbers in the city centre, the Place Brand Team were tasked with creating a campaign to encourage Dubliners to return to the city. Entitled 'Make A Day Of It', the campaign promotes economic activity through day based itineraries across the city, featuring visitor attractions, unique retail stores and culinary stop offs.

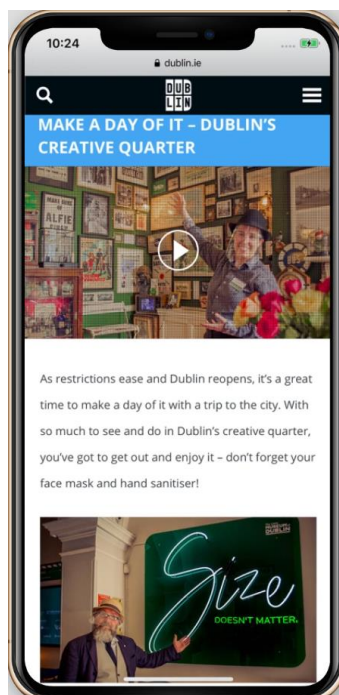
This is a multifaceted campaign across outdoor and social media. We've been consulting with Fáilte Ireland closely, as their 'Come Here To Me Dublin' campaign is attempting to stimulate domestic tourism too. We've attempted to reduce overlap by sharing information on the respective campaigns. A number of other stakeholders are actively being consulted, including DublinTown.

The campaign is being managed by the team with almost all creative being produced in house. Five areas of the city were chosen (keeping in mind what Fáilte were due to cover), they include: North City, Historic Heart, Creative Quarter, Drumcondra & Glasnevin and the Liberties. The first itinerary was published on Dublin.ie on the 12th August with an accompanying press release. The campaign was well received and garnered coverage across print (Irish Times, The Journal) and broadcast media (RTE Radio 1 Drivetime, FM104, Q102).

The five itineraries are being published weekly, along with competitions to win vouchers for all of the featured venues. They're available at <https://dublin.ie/day>

We are measuring the reach and engagement for all content we're producing. However, we'll also be assessing the effectiveness of the campaign through:

- Direct feedback from the attractions, shops and restaurants featured in the campaign
- Tourism spend barometer - measuring Q3, Q4 and other tourism and consumer surveys





John Adams, Owner of Article homewares store in Powerscourt Centre

Dublin Tech Summit

Dublin Tech Summit, originally due to take place earlier this year, has moved to an online platform and been renamed DTS Virtual. The event is taking place on the 14th October. In collaboration with our colleagues in the Economic Development Office & LEO, The Place Brand Team is assisting with online content, promotion and a presence for the brand during the event. It is hoped that the next live Tech Summit, scheduled for April 2021 in the RDS, will be able to go ahead.

Growing our audience on social

We've been running a campaign to grow our audience across our social media platforms (Facebook, Twitter & Instagram) over the past number of months. This has been done via a combination of content promotion and ads on all platforms. Follower numbers across each of the platforms are expected to reach 10k before the end of the year.

Stakeholder Engagement

We produced an Internal Partner Pack to highlight the objective of the Dublin Place Brand to other departments in DCC and how the Brand can work alongside the Dublin City Council logo. Meetings are being organised with internal departments to further discuss the Place Brand in advance of sending the Internal Partner Pack. Meetings to date include with Lord Mayor, Hazel Chu.

The Dublin Place Brand has been promoted through presentations at a number of online SPC meetings and industry groups including the Tourism & City Markets including Night Time Economy SPC Working Group and the Fáilte Ireland Dublin marketing team.

Additionally we have been engaging with internal and external stakeholders through collaboration on a number of articles which were featured on Dublin.ie and promoted through our social media platforms. These articles included:

- Working with Dublin Food Chain [Dublin's Food Sector Fights Back](#)
- With the Business Spirit Platform & Organisers of Responsible Business Summit [Profit with Purpose](#)
- In collaboration with Local Enterprise Office [Dublin LEO Clients Facing up to Covid](#)
- Working with Ray Yeates in the Arts Office [Where are the Arts Now](#)
- With Arbitration Ireland [Arbitration A Boost for Dublin's Economy](#)

4. Economic Development Office

Policy:

Economic Development & Enterprise Strategic Policy Committee: SPC

The June sitting of the Economic Development & Enterprise SPC meeting took place on 23rd June remotely via MS Teams. Presentations were provided on the COVID19 Your Dublin Your Voice survey, which was carried out by the Economic Development Office during 28th April – 12th May to establish the COVID19 impact of those living in Dublin across working practices, education deliverables, employment impact, and health, social and economic impacts. A further presentation was provided on the Dublin City Economic Recovery Strategy including developments across the organisation in response to COVID19 and the recovery strategy for the city. A final presentation was provided by Deiric Ó Broin, DCU & Eoin Magennis, University of Ulster on the Dublin-Belfast Economic Corridor Final Report: Current Profile, Potential in Recovery & Opportunities for Cooperation, which was published in June. As a result of extended COVID 19 guidelines the September SPC meeting will take place remotely via MS Teams. Presentations will be provided by Smart Cities on Connectivity & 5G; and by EDO and Grant Thornton on the Dublin Economic Monitor.

Tourism, City Markets & Night Time Economy SPC Working Group

Members of the Tourism, City Markets & Night Time Economy Working Group attended the Night Time Economy Forum meeting on 26th June at which a presentation was provided by the Manchester Night Time Manager. The Corporate Policy Committee approved the establishment of the working groups on 26th June. The Working group met on 8th July and 17th August. At the meetings on 8th July and 17th August, the group received presentations on Dublin Place Branding reopening campaigns - #InThisTogether, #ShopLocal and #MakeaDayofIt campaigns and also the Events section Words of our Time campaign to amplify the city. Further discussion on the proposed work programme took place. Additional nominations for this group has been received from the Arts and Culture SPC, which have been directed to the SPC chair for review and approval.

International Relations & EU Affairs SPC Working Group

The International Relations & EU Affairs working group met on 18th June. This meeting was rescheduled from April due to COVID19. At the progress scoping meeting the group received a presentation on the scoping paper prepared on the proposed work programme of the group, focusing on European funding, ageing city and networking opportunities in response to COVID19. The Corporate Policy Committee approved the establishments of the 2 proposed working groups on 26th June. At the 29th July meeting, the members received presentations from the Eastern Midland Regional Assembly (EMRA) and the European Investment Bank (EIB) to further guide work programme developments. The members contributed and finalised the council's submission on the European Structural investment Funds dissemination.

European Structural investment Funds submission

As part of the work programme of the International Relations & European Affairs working group, a submission was prepared in collaboration with Planning, Smart Cities and the Regional Skills Forum on the requirements for Dublin city on the dissemination of ESIF funds. This was submitted to the Northern Western Regional Assembly who is co-ordinating submissions nationally. We await the full evaluation of these national submissions.

Dublin Belfast Economic Corridor

The Chief Executives group of the Dublin Belfast Economic Corridor group met in June to discuss the developments of the group in response to COVID19. The DCU & University of Ulster final report on the Dublin-Belfast Economic Corridor: Current Profile, Potential in Recovery & Opportunities for Cooperation was published in June and was presented to the SPC meeting on 23rd June. At a meeting of the Steering Group on 29 July, governance arrangement for the Dublin Belfast Economic Corridor were discussed. In relation political oversight it was agreed that each participating local authority would nominate 3 Elected members to be part of a Political Oversight Group. It was also agreed that it would be a matter for each local authority to decide how their representatives are selected. This will be discussed and agreed at the Economic Development & Enterprise SPC on 15th September.

Dublin Night Time Economy Committee:

A Night Time Economy Forum hosted by Dublin City Council was held on 26th June where 24 stakeholders participated with representatives from the Department of Media, Tourism, Arts, Culture, Sport and the Gaeltacht (previously Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht), the Department of Justice, and representing the Culture Sector, Tourism, Transportation, and Business. The Night-time Economy Adviser from the Greater Manchester Area participated in the forum and provided an international perspective. From this an outcomes report will be made public and circulated to the participants and wider stakeholders including the Department of Media, Tourism, Arts, Culture, Sport and the Gaeltacht (previously Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht). A national Task Force on the Night Time Economy has now been established by the Minister with the Lord Mayor of Dublin as a member, along with the Lord Mayor of Cork city and other high level stakeholders. The first meeting of this task force will take place in September.

Dublin Region Enterprise Action Plan 2019-2020 (DREAP)

A review of the 24 targeted Action items contained in the Dublin Region Enterprise Action Plan to 2020 (DREAP) was discussed at a Steering Committee meeting on 30th July and a submission is being prepared for government in advance of the Economic Strategy plan which will be launched in collaboration of Budget 2021 on 13th October.

Dublin Summit Series – Sustainable Recovery

The Summit Series 2020 subject matter was agreed at the February SPC as Climate & Business – Sustainability in Business / Green Business. In response to the COVID19 economic crisis, the subject matter will be amended to the COVID19 Economic Recovery through Sustainability. It is proposed to host this event in late November. Dependent on the reopening programme, it is envisaged to hold a physical event with a potential streaming element but will be in line with government guidelines at that time. This will be reviewed regularly in response to the reopening HSE & HSA guidelines.

Projects:

Enterprise Challenge 2020

The remaining Public Innovation Funding secured for this initiative is being used to develop a branding toolkit for the initiative by year end. The challenge is being examined to develop into a regional offering.

Dublin Economic Monitor

The Dublin Economic Monitor (DEM) tender closed on 29th June 2020 with tender evaluation taking place on 30th June. The preferred bidder, Grant Thornton has been appointed. The September edition of the DEM will be published on 14th September with a Q2 Economic impact review and analysis theme. The back cover showcased the Dublin Place Brand Covid 19 campaign #MakeaDayOfIt. The edition can be viewed on dublineconomy.ie. The September edition of the DEM will be disseminated remotely following the September meeting of the SPC. A presentation on the future vision of the DEM will be provided at the September SPC meeting.

MODOS - Sustainability Training for Business

The MODUS programme held remote taster events in July to launch the Autumn programme and commence the recruitment drive for both the Dublin programme and also the National programme being co-ordinated through the Regional Waste Offices. Promotion took place via the webpage www.modos.ie, along with radio interviews, press release, e-mails to stakeholders, linkedin posts amongst others. The MODUS programme 2020 commenced on 8th September and will run for a 6 week period until mid-October.

Events:

The Economic Development Office provide support to various events across the city throughout the year. During 2020, this event sponsorship had been developed to assist in supporting identified economic sectors – Tech, Social Enterprise, Green Business / Circular Economy, Tourism, Markets, Food and Design. *As a result of COVID19, all events were postponed during the emergency period and remaining events have moved to a remote virtual offering.* We have received a number of sponsorship requests for virtual events. We have amended our events procedures in line with current climate and operational guidelines.

Future Scope – Tech

EDO and Smart Dublin were working to support Future Scope for their 1st April 2020 event. This annual event has been postponed to 2021.

Dublin Tech Summit – Tech

Dublin Virtual Tech Summit has been rescheduled to 14th October due to Covid 19 restrictions. Multiple virtual progress meetings have taken place over the Summer months on preparations. DCC will host a virtual panel discussion on the future on the city; host an interactive virtual stand on LEO supports for the tech sector and promote the Dublin Place brand highlighting Dublin as a tech location. 60 virtual mentor slots have also been allocated to attendees at the tech summit.

Responsible Innovation Summit - Climate & Transformation

RIS will take place remotely on 20th and 21st October this year in response to COVID19. The next publication Profit with Purpose showcasing the role of cities and businesses in making a positive impact, #RebuildBetter is due to be distributed in advance of RIS.

Research:

Your Dublin Your Voice:

A Your Dublin Your Voice survey on BuildBackBetter on Dublin residents was published on 13th August and closed on 21st August, with just under 1000 recipients completed the survey. Final Results are being collated & cleansed; and will be presented following the September SPC.

Social Enterprise Awards 2020:

The Economic Development Office continues to support social enterprise development through research and other initiatives. The sixth year of the Dublin City Social Enterprise Awards was launched during Enterprise Week in March and is scheduled for Q3. Dublin City Social Enterprise Awards 2020 have been shortlisted and evaluation completed. The Social Enterprise Awards, being delivered through ICE, contains a development programme for social enterprises across the city, including mentoring and training. A virtual awards event may take place in-line with current government guidelines.

European Social Economic Regions (ESER) Project:

Plans for an online event focused on social enterprise challenges, opportunities, responses and supports regarding the coronavirus crisis are being developed. This event will be part of the series of events as part of Dublin's involvement in the European Social Economy Regions 2020 project which Dublin City Council is leading on. It is intended to host an online mini conference aimed at supporting social enterprises.

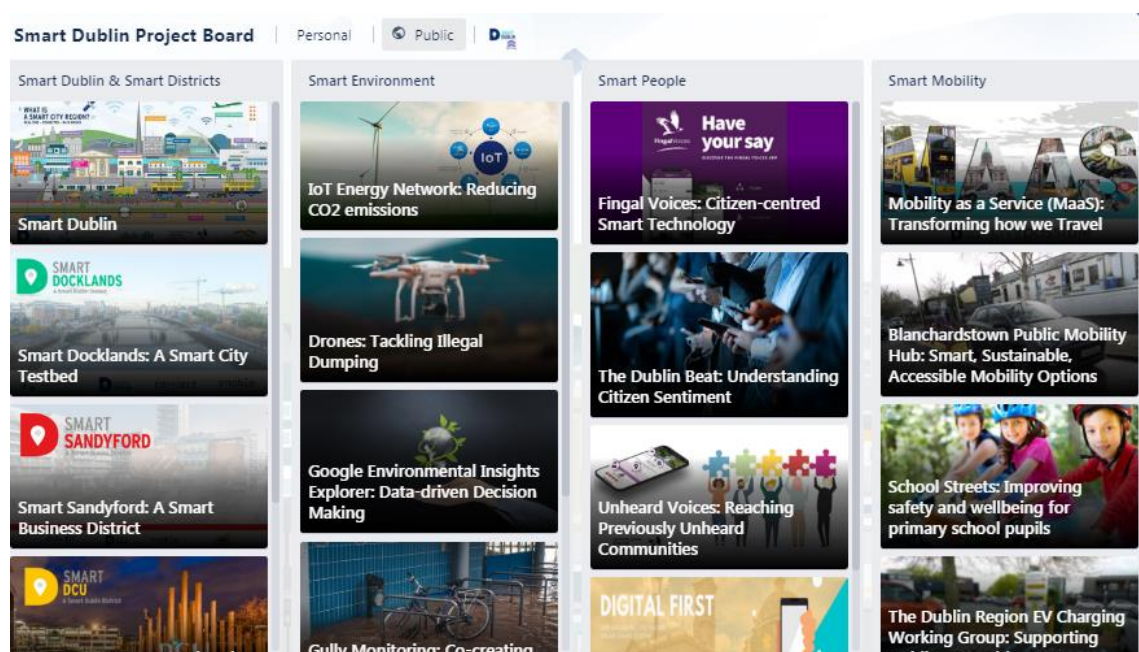
COVID 19 Cross Department Collaboration

Throughout the emergency period of restrictions and remote working; staff of Economic Development have been working remotely with 100% capacity. The EDO team work schedule and work programmes have been reviewed and re-aligned to support the M1 & M2 LEO teams in the delivery of essential critical front line services to the business community across the city. Whilst also delivering significant research on the socio-economic impact of COVID 19 across the city, and developing recovery strategies for reopening and rebuilding the city.

5. Smart Dublin & Smart Districts

Smart Dublin Project Trello Board

Across the 4 Dublin Local Authorities lots of exciting and innovative smart projects are taking place now, learn more by viewing the Smart Dublin public Trello board. <https://trello.com/b/188O9azF/smart-dublin-project-board>. A number of these projects are being delivered through Dublin City Councils Smart City Team.



From Smart Mobility Hubs, to Way-Finding Apps, Smart Street Furniture to Connected Life Buoys, a wide variety of smart projects are now live, helping to improve services and quality of life for Dubliners. The Smart Dublin Public Trello Board is a new, dynamic communications tool that tells the story and status of some of our projects throughout the Dublin region.

The projects are divided into six key smart city themes:

- Smart Environment: How can technology help build a greener, more sustainable and more resilient city region?
- Smart People: How can local government use technology to better engage with Dubliners?
- Smart Mobility: How can we better manage pedestrian, cycle and vehicular flows and reduce congestion?
- Smart Economy: How can we use smart technologies to improve liveability and competitiveness?
- Smart Government: How can we use technology and data to deliver better services and make better decisions?
- Smart Living: How can collaborative technologies help bring communities together and improve citizen well-being?

Smart Economy Update – DCC Smart City Connectivity Work Stream:

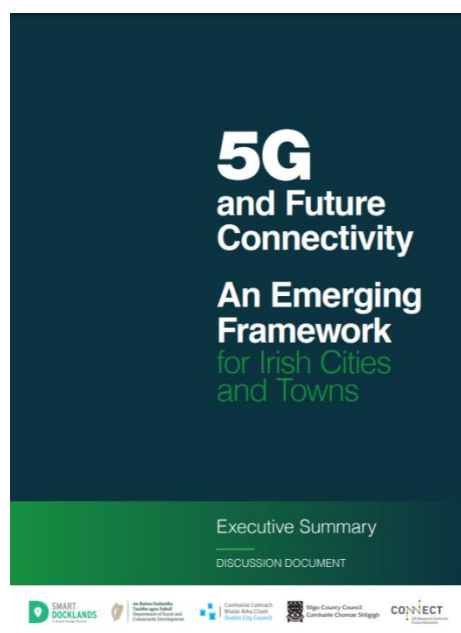
Free Public WiFi – WiFi4EU initiative

Update: Virgin Media Ireland Ltd were successful in the recent WiFi tender. They have been awarded a single supplier framework contract to support the rollout of WiFi across Dublin City Council locations. The three main work streams identified under the contract will focus on the following:

1. Wifi4EU – Initial site surveys have begun on the 44 locations identified through the 2019 public consultation to determine the feasibility of these locations in relation to WiFi installation.
2. Initial engagement has begun with additional DCC departments to install WiFi at various locations.
3. Innovation led added value – Virgin Media will work with the Smart City team to develop projects that help address digital literacy and the digital divide in local communities where access to connectivity is limited. Other innovations may include projects that compliment or support other smart city projects or programmes e.g. Smart Tourism.

Future connectivity and 5G discussion paper launched

Dublin City Council and Sligo County Council partnered with the national research centre CONNECT (future networks and connectivity) to launch a discussion document, “5G and Future Connectivity: An Emerging Framework for Irish Cities and Towns”. The paper explored options for the rollout of future connectivity in Ireland which is a fundamental to future economic competitiveness. The document draws on findings from an online survey of telecoms vendors, mobile operators, and local authority broadband officers. It makes a number of recommendations calling for stronger alignment at local and national levels. The report is available here: www.smartdocklands.ie/5g



Podcast discussing the paper and future connectivity available here: <https://www.techcentral.ie/dublin-city-councils-jamie-cudden-on-capital-ideas/>

The document proposes a five-year roadmap to remove barriers to the rollout of next-generation communication networks at local and national level. It highlights the need for a co-ordinated approach to ensure Ireland does not miss the significant economic potential associated with 5G.

Dr Brendan Jennings, Interim Director of CONNECT, said of the report: “The economic opportunity associated with 5G and next-generation networks is well documented: the global impact in goods and services is expected to reach \$12 trillion by 2035. A much more coordinated approach is needed if all regions in Ireland are to capitalise on this. The economic difficulties due to the COVID-19 pandemic

make this all the more urgent”

The document recommends the establishment of a National Working Group to shape a shared vision for connectivity in Ireland. It should be composed of key stakeholders: government departments, local authorities, mobile operators, equipment vendors, the research community and bodies like IBEC, ESB Networks, ComReg and the EPA.

Also the report highlights the role Local authorities, in particular, will play in Ireland's path to 5G, so collaboration and engagement between councils and mobile operators will be essential to facilitate a sustainable rollout.

There is also an acknowledgement regarding the importance of monitoring safety as central to all 5G deployments and that the latest scientific guidance from the World Health Organisation (WHO) and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) needs to be communicated clearly to all stakeholders.

The discussion document was funded and supported by the Digital Innovation Programme of the then Department of Rural and Community Development. Preparation of the document was led by the Smart City team at Dublin City Council in collaboration with leading telecoms experts, Sligo County Council and CONNECT.

For any queries in relation to the above please email smartcity@dublincity.ie

Appendix 1: LEO Response Supports for COVID



Local Enterprise Office



Coronavirus
COVID-19
National
Programme

Helping your business **respond** to COVID-19

Your Local Enterprise Office is here to help your business respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. How can we help?

Trading Online Voucher Scheme

Can you do more business online?



COVID-19 Business Loans

First 6 months are Interest & repayment free



Second voucher now available

Under the Government's National Digital Strategy, the expanded Trading Online Voucher Scheme helps small businesses with up to 10 employees to trade more online, boost sales and reach new markets. There is up to €2,500 available through the Local Enterprise Offices, with co-funding of 10% from the business.

Open to businesses that have been trading for at least six months, training and further business supports are also provided. Businesses that have already received a Trading Online Voucher can now apply for a second voucher, where upgrades are required.

Funding can be used towards adding payment facilities or booking systems to your website or developing new apps for your customers.

The voucher can also be used towards subscriptions to low cost online retail platform solutions, to help companies quickly establish a retailing presence online.

Notes: For applications received from April 6th 2020 until September 30th 2020. Further eligibility, terms & conditions apply. Businesses that wish to apply must attend an official Trading Online Voucher Seminar, through their LEO, prior to application.

New low rate of 4.5% through the Local Enterprise Offices

The COVID-19 Business Loan from Microfinance Ireland (MFI), in partnership with Local Enterprise Offices, is a Government-funded initiative to support small businesses. It's designed for micro-enterprises that are a) having difficulty accessing Bank finance and b) impacted, or may be impacted negatively, by COVID-19 resulting in a reduction of 15% or more in turnover or profit.

Loan Features:

- Business Loans of up to €50,000 are available for eligible micro-enterprises (ie businesses with less than 10 employees and up to €2m annual turnover) that are currently trading
- Loans may be used for working capital and required business changes as a result of COVID-19
- Loan terms are typically up to 3 years
- 6 months interest free and repayment free moratorium
- New low interest rate of 4.5%, if submitted through your Local Enterprise Office
- No fees or hidden costs with fixed repayments.
- No penalty for early repayment

Visit LocalEnterprise.ie/Response

Helping your business **respond** to COVID-19

visit LocalEnterprise.ie/Response

Mentoring *Advice and guidance is now free*



Under the Local Enterprise Office Mentor Programme, clients work with an experienced mentor to identify solutions to areas of exposure within their business.

With advice and guidance from their mentor, clients develop strategies that are more robust, which address issues and maximise potential opportunities when the COVID-19 crisis comes to an end.

Mentoring services are now free of charge.

LEAN for Micro *Become a Leaner business*



LEAN for Micro is available to LEO clients to help build resilience within small companies.

Under this programme, clients can avail of consultancy support with a LEAN Expert (a qualified practitioner), who will work with the company to introduce lean principles, undertake a specific cost savings project and assist the company in benchmarking its performance.

LEAN for Micro can also be used to help implement new remote working and physical distancing guidelines.

Training and Webinars *Upskill and network remotely, for free*



Local Enterprise Offices have moved training programmes, workshops and networking meet-ups online, covering areas such as cash management in a crisis, leading your business through COVID-19 and advice for employers impacted by the crisis.

Training programmes are free of charge and places can be booked online, through your Local Enterprise Office.

LEO Financial Supports *Grants for new and established businesses*



For existing companies and potential start-ups that meet eligibility criteria (such as employing 10 or fewer people with the potential for growth and job creation), Local Enterprise Offices can also offer financial supports to help manage current market challenges:

- Business Priming Grants**
- Business Expansion Grants**
- Feasibility Study Grants**
- Technical Assistance for Micro-Exporters Grant**

Notes: **For LEO Financial Supports, further eligibility criteria apply.

There are 31 Local Enterprise Offices in local authorities across the country. You'll find contact details for your nearest LEO at LocalEnterprise.ie

