

Dublin City Council's European Programme Participation Strategy 2021 – 2027

Overview prepared for the Finance SPC

25th March 2021

The Economic Development Office & International Relations Office within Dublin City Council progressed a preparation process in advance of the upcoming European Funding Programme 2021 – 2027, as outlined below.

In late September 2020, the Economic Development & Enterprise Strategic Policy Committee Working Group on International Relations & European Affairs, sought to ascertain details on existing and past EU projects and EU funded national projects that Dublin City Council has participated in or applied to. This was in order to prepare for future EU funding and project opportunities and to gain an understanding of the level and scope of EU funded projects under the 2014 to 2020 EU budget cycle and to assist in raising awareness of funding opportunities in the new EU budget cycle (2021-2027).

Project Overview:

An external co-ordinator, Urban Mode Ltd, was appointed to progress European project proposal potential. A project proposal was developed to examine the Council's capability and capacity for developing European funding opportunities for the upcoming 2021 – 2027 European Funding programme. The Corporate Policy Group, which met on 25th September were informed of this approach.

The preparation process involved a 3 stage approach being carried out:

Stage	Process	Timeframe
Stage 1	Complete Internal Organisation Survey	October 2020
Stage 2	Develop & Deliver Staff Information Sessions	November 2020
Stage 3	Develop European Programme Strategy Document	December 2020

Stage 1: Internal organisation survey:

In the first week in October 2020, a survey questionnaire was issued to all departments and sections across the organisation. Submissions were received from 8 Departments and 14 sections. All data was collated, reviewed and presented to the SPC working group on 12th October 2020.

Stage 2: Information Sharing Events:

European Programme Information sharing meetings were developed and scheduled to be held in collaboration with National Contact Points for various programmes. It is noted there has already been a seminar with Eastern Midlands Regional Assembly and the European Investment Bank on 29th July with the SPC Working Group. Four information sessions have been delivered for internal Dublin City Council staff in November and a full overview information session with the full council on 25th November 2020.

Stage 3: European Programme Participation Strategy for Dublin City Council:

Following the data gathering and information sharing process stages, development of a strategy document for European Programme Participation 2021 - 2027 for Dublin City Council was commenced in late November. This strategy document contains baseline data on expertise & knowledge across the organisation, programme details and processes collated from 5 Information sharing meetings and seminars & consultations taken place with elected members & senior management.

The draft strategy document was presented to the Senior Management team on 15th December; presented to the SPC Working Group on European Affairs & International Relations on 18th December, the Economic Development & Enterprise SPC on 12th January 2021 and the Corporate Policy Committee on 19th February 2021.

Next Steps:

A European Programme Office is now being researched for establishment within Dublin City Council.