



Comhairle Cathrach  
Bhaile Átha Cliath  
Dublin City Council

## Economic Development & Enterprise Strategic Policy Committee

### European Programme Support Office (EPSO): Progress Report:

14<sup>th</sup> September 2021

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# EU Programme Participation Strategy 2021 – 2027 Launch

## Launch Event:

Dublin City Council's Economic Development Office and International Relations Office hosted the launch of Dublin City Council's EU Programme Participation Strategy 2021 – 2027 on 20<sup>th</sup> July 2021.

This strategy launch took place at a critical time in the history of our city, our country and the European Union. It was extremely timely with the visit of President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen to Dublin within the same week; announcing a post-Covid investment package, which showcased that the EU and Ireland are moving towards recovery.

The launch event, with 150 registered attendees, hosted by the Lord Mayor of Dublin Alison Gilliland, chaired by Cllr Claire O'Connor, chair of the EDE SPC, heard from representatives from the European Commission, Eastern Midlands Regional Assembly and Dublin City Council. Minister of State for European Affairs, Minister Thomas Byrne noted the proactive approach of Dublin City Council & for ensuring policies, procedures & structures are in place for Ireland's capital city to play a leading part in EU Programmes during the new EU Budget cycle.

## Programme and Schedule of Launch Event Agenda:

09:00	Launch Event
Opening	Cllr Claire O'Connor, Chair of Economic Development & Enterprise SPC
Welcome:	Lord Mayor of Dublin Alison Gilliland
National Context:	Minister Thomas Byrne, Minister for European Affairs
European Commission:	Willem Noë, European Semester Officer, European Commission Representation in Ireland
Dublin Regional Context:	Jim Conway, Director, Eastern Midlands Regional Assembly
Dublin City Context:	Richard Shakespeare, Chief Executive, Dublin City Council
09.40	Panel Discussion:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Willem Noë, European Semester Officer, European Commission Representation in Ireland</li><li>• Jim Conway, Director, Eastern Midlands Regional Assembly</li><li>• Mary MacSweeney, Deputy Head of Economic Development &amp; Enterprise, Dublin City Council</li><li>• Cllr Claire O'Connor, Chair of Economic Development &amp; Enterprise SPC</li></ul>
	Moderated by: Wessel Badenhorst, Director, Urban Mode Ltd
09.50	Closing Remarks
10:00	Event Close

## Strategy Development:

A year-long process was undertaken for the development of this strategy, bringing together City, Regional, National and European voices to share their focus for the next 7 year programme period and discuss opportunities for Dublin City, to continue to build a better future for those who live, work and visit our Capital city.

Our thematic approach focused on *Regional & Urban Development; Horizon Europe; Social and Culture & Green and Smart*. Throughout the developmental process we gathered baseline data to reflect on the participation of Dublin City Council departments and sections in EU Programmes during the previous EU budget cycle (2014 to 2020), and held 5 information sharing sessions to examine the opportunities for participation in the new EU budget cycle (2021 - 2027). Proceedings from the sessions informed the strategy for Dublin City Council participation in future EU Programmes.

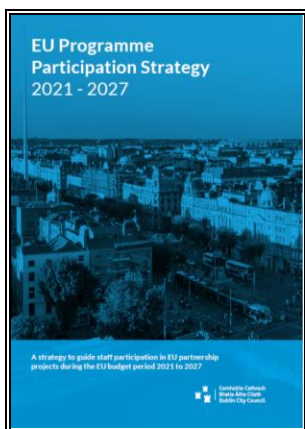
We would like to thank all our contributors with Dublin City Council elected members; our Strategic Policy Committee members; the European Commission Representation in Ireland, Eastern Midlands Regional Assembly; Irish Regions European Office; National Contact Points from Enterprise Ireland, Léargas, The Wheel, the Arts Council; and colleagues from the Higher Education Institutes across Dublin (DCU, Trinity, TU Dublin and UCD); along with our colleagues in Codema, Smart Cities and across Dublin City Council on shared learnings and opportunities.

This strategy will support the identification of opportunities within the EU Partnership Programmes and Projects and EU funding streams to realise Dublin City Council priorities but also contribute to the target areas identified by the European Commission and set out in the six EU pillars and the seven EC Flagships areas. It will also allow Dublin City Council to further develop policy alignment; capacity building; regional cooperation; public consultation; networking opportunities and reputation enhancement through innovative approaches and additionally through EU partnership projects

**Table 1: Dublin City Council Strategic Policy Committee Presentations on EU Strategy:**

<b>Dublin City Council EU Programme Participation Strategy 2021 – 2027 – Presentation to SPCs</b>				
<b>No</b>	<b>SPC</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Status</b>
1	Economic Development & Enterprise	12 <sup>th</sup> Jan	3.30pm – 5.30pm	Completed
2	Planning	23 <sup>rd</sup> Feb	3.30pm – 5.30pm	Completed
3	Finance	25 <sup>th</sup> Mar	2.30pm – 4.30pm	Completed
4	Climate Action, Environment & Energy	31 <sup>st</sup> Mar	3.30pm – 5.30pm	Completed
5	Housing & Community	14 <sup>th</sup> April	11am – 1pm	Completed
6	Arts, Culture, Leisure & Recreation	17 <sup>th</sup> May	9.30 – 11.30	Completed
7	Traffic & Transport	25 <sup>th</sup> May	3pm – 5pm	Completed

## Imagery 1: Dublin City Council EU Programme Participation Strategy 2021 - 2027 Launch Event





## European Programme Support Office (EPSO) Establishment

The EU Programme Participation Strategy implementation Steering Committee continue to meet on implementing the strategy with the establishment and development of the European Programme Support Office (EPSO) for the organisation.

Priorities to date include resource recruitment; tender brief development to establishment a framework of European expertise; establishment of corporate governance, procedures and protocols for the operations of the office; developing a communications strategy and event programme schedule to year end.

**Table 2: EU Programme Participation Strategy Implementation Steering Committee Mtgs:**

<b>EU Programme Participation Strategy Implementation Steering Committee Mtgs:</b>		
<b>Mth</b>	<b>SPC</b>	<b>Date</b>
1	February 2021	12 <sup>th</sup> ; 25 <sup>th</sup>
2	March 2021	12 <sup>th</sup> ; 25 <sup>th</sup>
3	April 2021	22 <sup>nd</sup>
4	May 2021	20 <sup>th</sup> ; 27 <sup>th</sup>
5	June 2021	3 <sup>rd</sup> ; 10 <sup>th</sup> ; 17 <sup>th</sup> ; 24 <sup>th</sup>
6	July 2021	15 <sup>th</sup> ; 22 <sup>nd</sup>
7	August 2021	23 <sup>rd</sup> ; 25 <sup>th</sup>

### Strategic Objectives: EPSO Alignment

The establishment and development of the EPSO aligns to the 7 Strategic Objectives of the Dublin City Council EU Programme Participation Strategy 2021 – 2027.

1. To ensure that any participation in an EU partnership project by DCC staff contributes to the goals and policy objectives of the European Union and Dublin City Council.
2. To promote participation in EU partnership projects which will measurably contribute to the capacity of DCC to meet its mission and public obligations.
3. To cooperate with relevant bodies such as national contact points of EU Programmes, the Eastern and Midlands Regional Assembly (EMRA) and the Irish Regions European Office (IREO) that will assist with the participation of Dublin City Council staff in EU partnership projects.
4. To engage with local communities and targeted beneficiaries matching where possible intended impacts with local needs.
5. To build the international reputation of DCC and the city of Dublin through participation in EU partnership projects.
6. To use participation in EU partnership projects to promote innovation in the operations of DCC that is green and smart and that enables openness, diversity and social inclusion.
7. To ensure that participation in EU partnership projects brings additionality to the services of DCC.

## Progress Overview on the EPSO: 7 Core Deliverables

The establishment of the EPSO and development of the 7 core deliverables of the office has continued throughout Q2 & Q3. The EPSO development timeframe for 2021 is illustrated in Appendix 2 attached.

### 1. Operational Developments

#### Recruitment:

##### Strategic Objective Alignment: 2; 6; 7

Resource recruitment for the EPSO took place during June and first team members joined the EU Programme Support Office in July with the appointment of two graduates on 5<sup>th</sup> July 2021 under the Local Government Recruitment drive. Maria Julia Chicotti joins the team under the Marketing & Communications strand and Muskan Sahdev joins the team under the Economic Development & Enterprise strand.

As the remaining roles within the EPSO are new roles within the organisation, a business case was developed and will be submitted to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage for sanctioning of these new roles. This follows the normal procedure within Local Government for new roles as they are established. As soon as possible after sanction from the Department, a recruitment drive will be undertaken to fill these remaining roles. In the interim the management and development of the EPSO falls within the Economic Development Office under the CRES Department.

#### CRM System:

##### Strategic Objective Alignment: 2; 6; 7

Throughout August 2021 a number of meetings were held to development the best practice options for the EPSO for various CRM systems examining:

- i. Internal – Sharepoint
- ii. Internal – Councillor Portal
- iii. External – Website & Social Media Platforms

In the interim, while these platforms are being developed; details on the Dublin City Council EU Programme Participation Strategy 2021 - 2027 launch are being hosted under the Economic Development Office section on the Dublin City Council website and being disseminated via the EDO Twitter account and Dublin City Council twitter account.

**Table 3: CRM Development Meetings:**

EPSO CRM Development Meetings:		
Mth	SPC	Date
1	IS Portal	10 <sup>th</sup> August
2	HDO Tracker	11 <sup>th</sup> August
3	Digital Transformation Unit	12 <sup>th</sup> August
4	Programme Management	12 <sup>th</sup> August
5	Digital Strategy Interaction	13 <sup>th</sup> August
6	Digital Transformation Unit	19 <sup>th</sup> August
7	Digital Transformation Unit	23 <sup>rd</sup> August

## 2. Corporate Governance

### Strategic Objective Alignment: 5; 6; 7

A suite of Procedure & Protocol practices are currently being examined to develop best practice approaches within the EPSO. These will be progressed in the weeks and months ahead. Core Priority 2 will be progressed in the weeks and months ahead as per Appendix 2.

## 3. EPSO Project Participation Appraisal Process

### Strategic Objective Alignment: 1; 6; 7

An evaluation process is currently being developed to examine participation in various EU Programme opportunities. The evaluation process is in line with the Dublin City Council Objectives 2020 – 2024; the Dublin City Council EU Programme Participation Strategy 2021 – 2027 and the EU Goals 2021 – 2027. Elements of the evaluation process are outlined in Table 4 and 5 below. Core Priority 3 will be progressed in the weeks and months ahead as per Appendix 2.

**Table 4: Alignment to Dublin City Council EU Programme Participation Strategy 2021 - 2027**

Dublin City Council – Benefits of Participating	
1	Policy Alignment
2	Capacity Building
3	Regional Cooperation
4	Network Building
5	Reputation Enhancement
6	Innovative Approaches
7	Financial contributions

**Table 5: Evaluation of IURC Involvement: EPSO Matrix Review:**

EU Goals 2021 - 2027	Dublin City Council Objectives 2020 – 2024						
		A Green, Low Carbon City	Safe, Thriving Neighbourhoods	A Strong, Diverse Economy	Compact Growth with Connected Infrastructure	Active, Inclusive Communities	A Vibrant Cultural Life
	Smarter Europe						
	Greener, Carbon-Free Europe						
	Connected Europe						
	Social Europe						
	Europe Closer to Citizens						

## 4. Communications

### Strategic Objective Alignment: 2; 3; 5; 6

Research, analysis and a number of communication development meetings have taken place to examine best practice approaches for EPSO communications.

A Communication Strategy & Action Plan will be developed in the months ahead for both:

- i. Internal Communications
- ii. External Communications

**Table 6: Communication Development Meetings:**

EPSO Communications Development Meetings:		
Mth	SPC	Date
1	Communications & Marketing Research Mtg – Smart Cities	12 <sup>th</sup> August
2	Communications & Marketing Research Mtg – Smart Cities	23 <sup>rd</sup> August
3	Digital Media Policy - Communications Unit	1 <sup>st</sup> September
4	Digital Media Policy - Communications Unit	3 <sup>rd</sup> September
5	Social Media Strategy - Communications Unit	6 <sup>th</sup> September

Core Priority 4 will be progressed in the weeks and months ahead as per Appendix 2.

## 5. Training & Development Programme

### Strategic Objective Alignment: 2; 3; 6; 7

A framework is being examined with potential opportunities for training & development programmes for all stakeholders who will be supported by the EPSO:

- i. Internal – EU Programme Support Office Team
- ii. Internal – DCC Staff
- iii. Internal – Councillors and Elected Members

Core Priority 5 will be progressed in the weeks and months ahead as per Appendix 2 in line with the Strategic Objective for capacity building across the organisation.

## 6. European Expert Framework

### Strategic Objective Alignment: 5; 6; 7

A tender brief is being drafted for review to progress through a procurement process via the eTender platform for the establishment of a European expert framework, which can be utilized by the organisation via the EPSO. Core Priority 6 will be progressed in the weeks and months ahead as per Appendix 2.

## 7. Events

### Strategic Objective Alignment: 4; 5; 6; 7

Research, analysis and a review has taken place on a number of upcoming EU Programme events taking place for the remainder of 2021, as highlighted in Appendix 1. Development will continue of the EPSO suite & schedule of events in line with Strategic Objective 4, 5, 6 and 7 of the EU strategy implementation. Core Priority 7 will be progressed in the weeks and months ahead as per Appendix 1 and Appendix 2.



## Appendix 1: European Programmes Schedule of Events: September – December 2021

September 2021 EU Programmes Events List					
S.No.	EU Programme	Title	Date	Time	Venue
1	CIVITAS	<a href="#">Velo-city 2021</a>	06-09 Sept 21		Virtual
2	CIVITAS	<a href="#">E-buses: from pilots to mainstreaming</a>	09-10 Sept 21	14:30-17:30	Venue
3	CERV	<a href="#">European Defence Fund (EDF): Information Day &amp; Networking Event</a>	15-17 Sept 21	09:00-18:00	Virtual
4	LIFE	<a href="#">LIFE ADAPTATE final conference online</a> <a href="#">16 September 2021, 10:00 to 16 September 2021, 13:15</a>	16-Sep-21	10:00-13:15	Virtual
5	The Urban Agenda for the EU	<a href="#">The Productive City: How are urban initiatives and actions supporting Green, Just and Productive Cities in the EU?</a>	20-Sep-21	14:00-16:00	Virtual
6	The Urban Agenda for the EU	<a href="#">The Green City: How are urban initiatives and actions supporting Green, Just and Productive Cities in the EU?</a>	27-Sep-21	14:00-16:00	Virtual
7	LIFE	<a href="#">Circwaste webinar: Boosting the Circular Economy</a>	29-30 Sept 21	09:00-17:00	Virtual
October 2021 EU Programmes Events List					
S.No.	EU Programme	Title	Date	Time	Venue
1	The Urban Agenda for the EU	<a href="#">The Just City: How are urban initiatives and actions supporting Green, Just and Productive Cities in the EU?</a>	04-Oct-21	14:00-16:00	Virtual
2	Horizon Europe	<a href="#">EPOSS ANNUAL FORUM 2021</a>	04-07 Oct 21		Virtual
3	UIA	<a href="#">European Week of Regions and Cities</a>	11-14 Oct 21		Virtual
4	CIVITAS	<a href="#">ITS World Congress 2021</a>	11-15 Oct 21	09:00-17:00	Virtual
5	CIVITAS	<a href="#">CIVITAS Forum Conference 2021</a>	20-21 Oct 21		Hybrid
November 2021 EU Programmes Events List					
S.No.	EU Programme	Title	Date	Time	Venue
1	Horizon Europe	<a href="#">EFECS 2021</a>	23-25 Nov		Virtual
2	CIVITAS	<a href="#">ECOMM 2021</a>	24-26 Nov		Virtual
December 2021 EU Programmes Events List					
S.No.	EU Programme	Title	Date	Time	Venue
1	CIVITAS	<a href="#">POLIS Annual Conference 2021</a>	01-02 Dec	09:00-15:00	Virtual

## Appendix 2: EPSO Development 2021 Timeframe:

European Programme Support Office (EPSO): 2021 Timeframes												
Priority	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
<b>EU Programme Participation Strategy 2021 – 2027</b>												
EDE SPC												
Planning & Urban Form SPC												
Finance SPC												
Climate Action, Environment & Energy SPC												
Housing SPC												
Traffic & Transport SPC												
Arts, Culture, Leisure & Recreation SPC												
Launch Event												
<b>European Programme Support Office (EPSO) Establishment</b>												
Elected members endorsement & budget allocation												
Steering Committee Meetings												
<b>Operational Developments</b>												
Recruitment												
CRM Systems												
<b>Corporate Governance</b>												
Procedure Developed												
Protocol Developed												
Implementation												
<b>EPSO Project Participation Appraisal Process</b>												
Development of Appraisal Process												
Implementation of Appraisal Process												
<b>Communications</b>												
Communication Strategy												
Communication Action Plan												
<b>Training &amp; Development</b>												
Framework												
EPSO Team												
DCC Organisation Staff												
Elected Members												
<b>European Expert Framework</b>												
Tender Development												
Tender Process												
Framework in place												
<b>Events</b>												
European Programmes Event Schedule												
EPSO Event Schedule												