

Mr. Greg Swift
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Dublin City Council
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Ireland.

11th August 2021

Re: Proposed lease of the Dublin City Council depot at Coleraine Street Dublin 7 to Inner City Enterprise

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to highlight the support of the Local Enterprise Office Dublin City for the proposed 15 year lease of the former Dublin City Council Housing Depot on Coleraine Street to Inner City Enterprise.

Inner City Enterprise (ICE) provides an extensive range of tangible supports to assist aspiring entrepreneurs and social entrepreneurs to start and grow their enterprises in Dublin City. ICE and the entrepreneurs, enterprises and social enterprises it supports, contribute to various economic benefits such as job creation, community benefits such as social inclusion and policy benefits such as active citizenship. ICE primarily focuses on supporting unemployed people and young people, who often face additional challenges when trying to create their own enterprises. Furthermore, in the context of the COVID 19 pandemic, young people have been disproportionately impacted and there are many more unemployed people in Dublin as unemployment has risen above national unemployment levels.

The proposed lease would enable ICE to expand its supports and support more entrepreneurs, enterprises and also more unemployed people and young people to create their own employment or enterprises in Dublin City. The lease would also enable ICE to provide accessible, flexible and affordable work space and thus overcome a major challenge for young people and unemployed people when trying to create their own enterprise.

In addition, the Economic Development Office of Dublin City Council has conducted research on the distribution of enterprise hubs in which entrepreneurs and enterprises are supported in Dublin. A marked difference is apparent between the south city and north city as the north city accounts for approximately 25% of enterprise hubs in comparison to 75% in the south city. Thus, the proposed lease and subsequent creation of an enterprise hub by ICE would help to address the deficit of enterprise hubs in the north inner city and would provide dedicated and accessible hub space in the Dublin 7 area. The creation of the enterprise hub would help to support and encourage a culture of entrepreneurship and innovation in the local community and directly support many social enterprises which are seeking to address various key issues on both a local community, city and national basis.

As Head of both Economic Development for Dublin City Council and the Local Enterprise Office for Dublin City, I offer my full support for the proposed lease to Inner City Enterprise.

Kind regards

Greg Swift
Head of Enterprise & Economic Development - Dublin City Council