
Report on Crowdfund Dublin City Pledges (Grants)

Background

The Finance Strategic Policy Committee has championed and supported the introduction of Civic Crowdfunding to Dublin City Council over recent years. This has involved market engagement and evaluation, an open competitive tender process and selection. This project has been led by the Finance Department with a small group including staff from Procurement, Information Systems, Sports and Recreation and Housing and Community. Dublin City Council awarded a contract to Spacehive, a UK based provider of a civic crowdfunding platform. Crowdfund Dublin City went live in Q3 2023, accessed through a microsite on the Spacehive platform. Briefing sessions were held for the benefit of Elected Members, Dublin City Council staff, external stakeholders and potential project creators. Crowdfund Dublin City was formally launched by Ardmheara Daithi de Róiste on 3rd October in the Oak Room of the Mansion House.

Project Objectives

The primary objective of the introduction of civic crowdfunding is the creation of opportunities for community engagement at a local context. Building on connections made into the future is also a key aim. In addition to benefiting communities, the project must protect and safeguard pledges made of whatever value, during the crowdfunding process.

Crowdfund Pitches

The submission deadline for pitches for funding was 29th November 2023. Applications were regularly assessed by Dublin City Council during the funding window. A social media campaign encouraged participation. Seven submitted projects are at the submitted for verification / verified / fundraising stages. The projects focus on a range of activities from gardening to bio-diversity to local history to community development to sports and healthy communities. (See Table 1).

Table 1 Projects and Purpose

	Project	Purpose
1	All Quiet in the Tents	Local History leading to a publication
2	Ballyrun	Encourage greater participation in running
3	Crumlin and the way it was	Local History account republished
4	Grow Food & Friendships	Food resilience and community development
5	Renovation of community garden	Bring existing community garden back to use
6	Swifties Tower Suites	Encourage bio-diversity through bird life
7	The Casual-TEE Ward	Clothing recycling

Locations of Projects

The seven projects at the submitted for verification / verified / fundraising stages are spread across the city, with four located on the Northside and three located on the Southside. (See Table 2).

Table 2 Location of Projects

	Project	Location
1	All Quiet in the Tenters	The Tenters, Dublin 8
2	Ballyrun	Ballymun, Dublin 11
3	Crumlin and the way it was	Crumlin, Dublin 12
4	Grow Food & Friendships	Cabra, Dublin 7
5	Renovation of community garden	Donnycarney, Dublin 5
6	Swifties Tower Suites	Prospect Square, Dublin 9
7	The Casual-TEE Ward	Crumlin, Dublin 12

Proposed Dublin City Council Pledge

As part of the submission process, all pitches have identified the full expected incurred project costs. Full project costs range from €1,093.45 to €11,146.83.

The awarding of grants is a Reserved Function. At its meeting held on 18th January, the Finance SPC agreed to recommend the payment of pledges (grants) as detailed below.

It is proposed that Dublin City Council will make a pledge of 50% of total costs to each project. Individual project values and the total Dublin City Council commitment at €16,719.40 is set out below (See Table 3).

This report seeks the approval of the City Council for the payment of these pledges (grants).

Table3 Proposed Dublin City Council Pledge

	Project	Total Cost	Dublin City Council Proposed Pledge
1	All Quiet in the Tenters	€ 5,098.90	€ 2,549.45
2	Ballyrun	€ 1,291.45	€ 645.73
3	Crumlin and the way it was	€ 5,650.87	€ 2,825.44
4	Grow Food & Friendships	€ 11,146.83	€ 5,573.42
5	Renovation of community garden	€ 5,740.08	€ 2,870.04
6	Swifties Tower Suites	€ 1,093.45	€ 546.73
7	The Casual-TEE Ward	€ 3,417.18	€ 1,708.59
	Total	€ 33,438.76	€ 16,719.40

Resolution:

“That Dublin City Council notes the contents of Report No.50/2024 and hereby approves the Crowdfund Dublin City Pledges as set out therein.”

Kathy Quinn

Head of Finance with responsibility for ICT

12th February 2024