



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



REGIONAL ENTERPRISE PLAN TO 2024

DUBLIN



An initiative of the Department
of Enterprise, Trade and Employment



Table of Contents

Tánaiste's Foreword	1
Message from the Chair	3
Dublin Regional Profile	4
Overview of Strategic Objectives and Actions	5
Chapter 1: The Regional Enterprise Plans Initiative	7
Chapter 2: Dublin Regional Enterprise Plan to 2024	9
• Strategic Objective 1: Strengthen resilience and the potential for scaling amongst Dublin's SMEs and Start-Ups	9
• Strategic Objective 2: Promote context specific, attractive, and adaptive place-making for an evolving world of work and diverse lifestyles, enabling resilience, business recovery and new opportunities for Dublin	13
• Strategic Objective 3: Facilitate every individual to realise their full potential through engagement in economic activity	19
• Strategic Objective 4: Enable and position business as leaders in Dublin's low carbon transition	23
• Strategic Objective 5: Ensure the availability of skills and talent to realise Dublin's future economic potential	28
• Strategic Objective 6: Strengthen Dublin's Ecosystem	31
Chapter 3: Implementation	32
Chapter 4: Enterprise Agencies and Local Enterprise Office	33
• 4.1 Enterprise Ireland: Focus to 2024	33
• 4.2 IDA Ireland: Focus to 2024	35
• 4.3 Local Enterprise Office: Focus to 2024	37
Chapter 5: Complementary Strategies and Initiatives	38
• 5.1 Fáilte Ireland: Dublin Region Focus to 2024	38
• 5.2 Regional Skills Forum: Dublin Focus to 2024	40
• 5.3 The Regional Assembly	41
• 5.4 Local Authorities – Local Economic and Community Plans	41
Appendices	42
Appendix 1: Membership of the Regional Steering Committee	43
Appendix 2: Dublin Regional Statistical Snapshot	44
Appendix 3: Other State Agencies and Bodies Supporting Enterprise Development	45
Appendix 4: Our Rural Future – Rural Development Policy 2021 – 2025	47
Appendix 5: Regional Enterprise Development Funding	48
Appendix 6: Methodology	49

Tánaiste's Foreword



As the powerhouse of the Irish economy, Dublin has a special role to play in realising our vision for a post pandemic Ireland. It must recover strongly and remain an attractive location for its citizens to live and work, and for businesses to flourish.

Through our Regional Enterprise Plans we recognise that there is added benefit for all when local stakeholders work together to understand their unique enterprise opportunities and challenges; and collaborate on solutions.

I am therefore delighted to welcome this new Regional Enterprise Plan to 2024 for Dublin. It is the culmination of intense engagement amongst stakeholders in the Dublin Region, led by Susan Spence, Co-Founder and President, SoftCo, and including the Enterprise Agencies, LEOs, Local Authorities, Regional Skills, Higher and Further Education, Fáilte Ireland, companies in the private sector and others. They have considered together important questions for enterprise development in their region, about enterprise resilience; place attractiveness; competitiveness; and the twin business transformation imperatives – low carbon and digital.

This new Regional Enterprise Plan to 2024 for Dublin is future focused and centred around the following priorities: an ambition to strengthening resilience amongst Dublin's SMEs and Start-Ups; promoting attractive and adaptive place-making; encouraging inclusion for all citizens of Dublin seeking to engage in economic activity; positioning Dublin based businesses as leaders in the low carbon transition; and taking steps to ensure the availability of skills and talent to meet future economic needs.

I would like to thank Susan for her insight and leadership on the preparation of this new Plan, and to welcome newly appointed Programme Manager Caroline Power who will coordinate its delivery. A special word of thanks too to Declan McCulloch, former Programme Manager, who made a significant contribution in the creation of this new Plan, and to the previous Dublin Regional plans.



I am very appreciative of the time and energy given by all the members of the Dublin Steering Committee, and for your ongoing commitment to the Dublin Regional Enterprise Plan.

To assist the Regional Enterprise Plans, my Department, through Enterprise Ireland, has made available over €126m in regional enterprise funding since 2018 to assist locally-led regional enterprise development projects. Of this, over €12.4m has been approved for the Dublin Region under the Regional Enterprise Development Fund and the Regional Enterprise Transition Scheme. With continued regional collaboration, knowledge sharing, and the solutions mindset that is in evidence through this new Plan, the Dublin Region is well positioned to compete for future funding calls.

Finally, I am very much looking forward to further engagement with Susan and the members of the Dublin Steering Committee as implementation of this new Dublin Regional Enterprise Plan to 2024 progresses.



Message from the Chair



Susan Spence,
Chair, Dublin Regional Enterprise Plan

I welcome the publication of the Dublin Regional Enterprise Plan 2024 and wish to thank all the stakeholders who participated in the making of the Plan during this challenging time.

The Dublin Regional Enterprise Plan is a great example of how disparate organisations can work collaboratively to produce ambitious, challenging, objectives and practical actions to drive job creation with the goal of making Dublin the premier location in Europe, a place to live, work, visit and do business. A key focus of the Plan is the promotion of the Dublin Brand both internationally and domestically in the context of living, working, investing, studying, and visiting our city. Dublin as the capital city has a pivotal role to play in the Irish economy. This Plan aims to ensure that Dublin will prosper and grow in that role.

It is important for our business community to expand, operate in new ways and remain resilient as the economy recovers. Dublin will aim to lead in digital transformation and the Plan includes access to suitable hubs, high quality mentoring expertise and clustering opportunities to provide the right environment for SMEs to grow and innovate. A critical element of the Plan is centred around inclusivity with initiatives that are targeted at marginalised and disadvantaged communities to support their pathway to employment or self-employment.

The Dublin Region recognises the potential and opportunity for businesses to demonstrate a leadership role in transitioning to a low carbon economy. The proposed actions are designed to educate, learn from other cities, and establish a circular hotspot to benefit businesses working positively on the climate challenges we face. The Dublin Region has been successful in attracting Regional Enterprise Development Funds, securing approximately €12m for seven significant enterprise focused projects for the region and it is important to build upon this and on the success of the previous Regional Enterprise Plan.

As referred above, this Plan is the product of engagement with many stakeholders including the various Enterprise agencies, local enterprise organisations, local authorities, business organisations, chambers of commerce, third level institutions and wider stakeholders. The support of the Tánaiste and Ministers English and Troy was essential to the production of the Plan. I look forward to their continued engagement as we move to implement all the objectives outlined in the Dublin Regional Enterprise Plan 2024.

A special thank you to all the staff at the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment for their invaluable expertise as well as the Steering Committee and Project Delivery Team led ably by the newly appointed Regional Programme Manager, for their excellent contributions.



Dublin Regional Profile

Background

In developing the Dublin Regional Enterprise Plan to 2024 the following high-level areas of focus were identified.

- Resilience and recovery.
- Transition to Low Carbon economy/digitalisation.
- Place making /eco system strengthening.
- Enterprise/innovation/smart specialisation.

From these areas of focus and following consultation with the Steering Committee, the Project Delivery Team and stakeholder consultation during 2021 the following six key objectives were identified for inclusion in the Plan to 2024.

- Strengthening resilience and the potential for scaling among Dublin's SMEs and Start-ups.
- Placemaking.
- Inclusion.
- Low carbon transition.
- Ensure availability of skills.
- Identify and nurture collaborative initiatives that meet regional enterprise needs.

Profile

The Dublin Region is the engine of the national economy and plays a key role in attracting internationally mobile talent and combines vibrant urban living, rich heritage and character with access to nature including Dublin Bay, the coastline and Dublin-Wicklow mountains.

The Dublin Region employs over 1m people. It attracts international investment and acts as a major economic driver for Ireland. Within the region, there is a diverse enterprise base and clustering of universities and research centres to drive innovation and digitalisation, while SMEs provide vital employment. The Dublin Region is home to cutting-edge technology providers, world-leading research institutes, a vibrant start-up community, engaged citizens and forward-thinking local authorities.

The Dublin Metropolitan area comprises of four local authorities viz Dublin City, Dún Laoghaire, Fingal and South Dublin with a combined population of 1.3m, which represents 28% of total population of the State. By 2026 the population is due to increase to between 1,489,000 (low) – 1,517,500 (high).

Dublin is a young, vibrant region which has been growing at an estimated average rate of 1.5% pa since the 2016 census making it one of the youngest capital cities in the EU. A total of 20% of the population is 19 years old and younger, with 67% age 20 –64 years, and 12.3% over 65 years of age. Highly skilled workers are attracted to Dublin for its many career opportunities, with 22% of the population born outside of Ireland. It benefits from a highly educated workforce with 40% educated to third level or higher. It is also a digitally connected region, where 95% of households have fixed broadband.

Business activity accelerated in (Q3 2021) as the Purchase Manager's Index (PMI) reading (62.1) was the strongest since 2014 and saw growing levels of new employment and orders. Employment levels in the Dublin Region gathered momentum in Q3 2021 with a rise of 7.9%. There were positive developments in the Dublin Region in Q3 2021 with the announcement of a new aviation training centre to recruit and train 5,000 new staff across Europe in the next five years. Also, the financial services sector in Dublin has announced plans to create hundreds of jobs as demand for professional services has increased markedly.

Recent notable events for Dublin include the signing of the Dublin Belfast economic corridor agreement, a collaboration between Dublin and Belfast to drive economic growth along the corridor; and Smart Dublin, an initiative of the four Dublin Local Authorities which recently won 2nd place (46 cities took part) in the European Capital of Innovation awards – a recognition of Cities' that contribute to developing local innovation systems for the benefit of innovators and the well-being of their citizens.

This Regional Enterprise Plan to 2024 with the full involvement and commitment of all stakeholders will future-proof the Dublin Region, through the strategic objectives by trialling and scaling innovative new solutions, to a wide range of local challenges. Key components will involve delivering on climate action, identifying and realising potential economic, enterprise and community opportunities, allow digitalisation through collaboration and innovation, grow individual skills potential, and build a better more resilient economic Dublin Region overall.



Overview of Strategic Objectives and Actions



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1: Strengthen resilience and the potential for scaling amongst Dublin's SMEs and Start-Ups

- Action 1.1** Supporting Enterprise Hub Provision in Dublin – Review and support Enterprise Hub Provision in Dublin.
- Action 1.2** Business Mentoring Capabilities – Strengthen Business Mentoring Capabilities among existing mentor panels.
- Action 1.3** Enabling Supply Opportunities for SMEs – Enhancing opportunities for small businesses to benefit from supply openings to include communication, training and awareness among Public and Private / MNC sectors.
- Action 1.4** Clustering for SMEs – Develop a strategy to enable and cultivate the formation of sectoral clusters in the Dublin Region.



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2: Promote context specific, attractive, and adaptive place-making for an evolving world of work and diverse lifestyles, enabling resilience, business recovery and new opportunities for Dublin

- Action 2.1** Engage to identify a pathway for the implementation of the '15-minute city' concept to encourage sustainable neighbourhoods.
- Action 2.2** Promote attractive, adaptive, and healthy place-making.
- Action 2.3** Advance the shared brand vision for Dublin.
- Action 2.4** Convene a Dublin Mayors Forum on the role of safety and security in supporting Dublin's recovery.
- Action 2.5** Develop Dublin as a flagship for the night-time economy.
- Action 2.6** Future-proof Dublin to take advantage of new and emerging technology trends.
- Action 2.7** Unlocking the connectivity potential of Dublin – A World Class Digital Infrastructure for all Dubliners.
- Action 2.8** Rethinking mobility in Dublin via Mobility-as-a-Service (Maas).



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3: Facilitate every individual to realise their full potential through engagement in economic activity

- Action 3.1 Inclusive City:** Dublin will become a 'City of Inclusion' with the participation of each of the four Local Authorities which will involve the development and implementation of an appropriate strategy.
- Action 3.2 Knowledge Hub:** A knowledge hub will be developed which will provide information and signposting offering a pathway to employment for all marginalised and disadvantage communities.
- Action 3.3 Employer Awareness:** A strong promotional campaign across the employer networks will be developed to motivate employers to support people from marginalised backgrounds into various entry points to full-time employment.
- Action 3.4 Neighbourhood Economics:** Community-led social enterprises will offer physical locations to support artisan enterprises to get established and sell their products/services, plus offer nascent entrepreneurs a premises to share space, skills and ideas.
- Action 3.5 Digital Divide:** CDETB, through its partnership with Google, will provide access to the Google Professional Certificates initiative. CDETB will also collaborate with other stakeholders and will provide Digital Literacy and other IT related training to marginalised and disadvantaged communities.
- Action 3.6 Community Groups:** Support will be provided to initiate and grow voluntary community groups who can offer economic and social services at a local level.



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 4: Enable and position businesses as leaders in Dublin's low carbon transition

- Action 4.1** Providing Business Support Mapping / Spoke Hub: Regulatory and Policy Content and Practical Business Supports Sign Posting.
- Action 4.2** Develop Circular Economy Hub.
- Action 4.3** Support Innovation Capacity: Partnering with EIT Climate KIC to develop a Circular Economy European Accelerator Programme.
- Action 4.4** Develop Investor Community: Based on EU Investment Area.



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 5: Ensure the availability of skills and talent to realise Dublin's future economic potential

- Action 5.1** Provide 'Awareness Events' on training supports and programmes by Agencies and Educational providers.
- Action 5.2** Leading the Way SME Project – Dublin Regional Pilot.
- Action 5.3** Carry out a review of the current skills landscape.



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 6: Strengthen Dublin's Ecosystem

- Action 6.1** Supporting the development of Regional Enterprise Development Plans.

1

The Regional Enterprise Plans Initiative

Introduction

In early 2019, nine Regional Steering Committees established by the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment (DETE), finalised and commenced implementation of the first *Regional Enterprise Plans*. This 'bottom-up' collaborative mechanism, involves the enterprise agencies, local enterprise offices, local authorities, higher and further education bodies, private sector and others, within each region, chaired by a senior figure from industry. The Committees were formed initially in 2015 to drive the Regional Action Plans for Jobs until 2018.

The Regional Enterprise Plans each contain agreed 'Strategic Objectives' for enterprise development, accompanied by a time-bound set of actions that deliver to the objectives. Progress Reports on implementation of the Regional Enterprise Plans to 2020 are available on the Department's website.

Policy Context

Delivering balanced regional growth through a coherent policy approach to the enterprise needs of every part of Ireland is a stated objective within the Programme for Government (PfG) and more recently emphasised in the Economic Recovery Plan 2021.

DETE contributes to this agenda in a number of ways, including through: the enterprise agencies; the Local Enterprise Offices (LEOs); and direct investments in strengthening the enterprise ecosystem (incl. Regional Enterprise Development Fund, IDA property programme etc.), guided by our national enterprise policy. This work takes place in the context of the National Planning Framework (NPF), which provides the vision and holistic future planning framework for Ireland's spatial development across society and economy over the longer-term, and its translation through Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies (RSES) and the aligned Local Authority County and City Development Plans.

The NPF and the three RSES provide a statutory long-term framework for the spatial, economic and social development of all regions in Ireland, offering an ambitious and sustainable proposition to delivering balanced regional development in Ireland. Smart Specialisation (S3) represents one of the key economic principles adopted in each of these high-level statutory frameworks, with a key enabling condition for funding interventions under the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) also being the development of and alignment with the Member State's S3. By placing Smart Specialisation as one of the thematic areas of the Regional Enterprise Plans, we can ensure that regional enterprise priorities identified and supported in these plans are aligned with the long-term vision and objectives of the NPF and the RSES.



Other pertinent national policies include the *National Skills Strategy 2025*, *Innovation 2020* (with a new innovation strategy forthcoming); and Making Remote Work amongst others. Also, as part of the Shared Island initiative, there will be added impetus to delivering balanced regional growth by leveraging the potential to grow the all-island economy, while driving growth and job creation North and South.

Ensuring that all regions can realise their enterprise development potential and that regional disparities are reduced therefore requires that the Department works closely with relevant partners across Government to strengthen the enabling conditions for investment and business growth.

The Regional Enterprise Plans recognise that enterprise policy coherence and collaboration at the national level needs to be mirrored from the 'bottom up', to enable:

- a place-based perspective on needs, capabilities and opportunities to inform national enterprise and other policies;
- economies of scale through joined up actions and investment;
- effective targeting of national initiatives to areas of opportunity and greatest need; and
- development and delivery of a programme of collaborative actions that can drive better outcomes in terms of regional job creation

Although the Plans themselves are focused and timebound, the Steering Committee mechanism also maintains a live agenda at regional level, responsive to emerging opportunities and challenges, for example: Brexit, COVID-19 pandemic impacts, remote working opportunity for regions, climate action/just transition, and regional shocks requiring joined up responses.

Developing new Regional Enterprise Plans to 2024

The outgoing Regional Enterprise Plans (REPs) concluded at the end of 2020. Final Progress Reports from the nine Steering Committees show that the model has impact and that actions delivered are complementary and add value to the mainstream interventions of the enterprise agencies and other bodies working to enable enterprise development at a regional level.

The new Plans to 2024 build on the first iteration of the REPs and each Steering Committee had a clear mandate to deliver a new Plan to 2024 that would:

- complement and translate national enterprise policy in a regional context;
- facilitate collaboration regionally to address prioritised ecosystem gaps and opportunities, and help achieve Agency and LEO investment and jobs targets in each region; and
- use collective insight and resources in each region, and available regional funding, to progress initiatives to enable enterprise growth and job creation in each region.

The Department highlighted a number of national policy challenges that each of the Regional Committees were asked to consider as part of the preparation of the new Plans: enabling recovery and building enterprise resilience in the context of COVID-19 and other external shocks; the twin transition imperative for enterprises to digitalise and contribute to a carbon neutral economy; improving competitiveness through effective placemaking, including enabling flexible work patterns; and capitalising on existing and emerging sectoral strengths and capabilities through smart specialisation.

The development of Regional Enterprise Plans to 2024 has for the first time been done in parallel with the creation of Ireland's forthcoming new Smart Specialisation Strategy (S3). The stakeholder consultation events undertaken as part of the development of these Regional Enterprise Plans has acted as an entrepreneurial discovery process which has contributed valuable insights to the S3 for Ireland.

The final appendix summarises the various stages that has led to the publication of the Regional Enterprise Plans. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the development of the nine new Plans to 2024 was undertaken in a virtual environment. The Regional Enterprise Plans and Initiatives Unit, within DETE, will oversee the implementation of the new Plans at the national level, while roll-out of the process in each region will be driven on the ground by the existing Regional Steering Committees, assisted by Programme Managers appointed by the Local Authorities in each region.

Finally, to help drive delivery of the new REPs to 2024, drive best practice across regions, and encourage cross-regional collaboration on areas of common interest and opportunity, the Department has established a National Oversight Group (NOG) for the REPs, chaired jointly by Minister Robert Troy and Minister Damien English. This grouping includes the Chairpersons and the Programme Managers of the Regional Steering Committees, national level representatives of the enterprise agencies and other relevant bodies, as well as relevant Government Departments. The Group will meet over the lifetime of the new Regional Enterprise Plans.



2

Dublin Regional Enterprise Plan to 2024

Strategic Objective 1:

Strengthen resilience and the potential for scaling amongst Dublin's SMEs and Start-Ups

Context and Vision to 2024

Dublin is the engine of the Irish economy, and the capital city plays a pivotal role in the country's economic fortunes. Small and medium-sized enterprises comprise some 99.8% of all enterprises and 68% of all persons employed. SMEs generate 50% of all turn over and are responsible for 41% of GVA (Gross Value Added) nationally. The importance of cultivating a strong and resilient base of SMEs and start-ups across multiple sectors in the capital cannot be underestimated.

The Future Jobs Ireland (2019) sets out the groundwork necessary for *Preparing for tomorrow's economy*. "It is time to shift our enterprise and jobs focus to ensure quality jobs that will be resilient into the future. This is not just a question of more jobs, instead it is focused on enabling the creation of highly productive, sustainable jobs."

In order to achieve resilience and continued growth among our SMEs, a multi-agency coordinated approach to the provision of focused and relevant supports is required. Start-ups and growing small businesses need access to supportive workspace in Enterprise hubs, which play a vital role in Dublin's entrepreneurship and innovation ecosystem. Enterprise hubs have the potential to be utilised as area-based interventions to help support community, economic and social enterprise development.

Business advisory and mentoring services are widely available to SMEs through agencies, though sectoral gaps in available knowledge need to be identified, and solutions put in place, to ensure that high potential start-ups can access sector-specific expertise.

Many of our SMEs are missing out on valuable opportunities to successfully tender for public contracts and consequently are not fulfilling their full growth potential. Interventions to enable easier access to procurement opportunities are needed in order to level the playing field for Dublin's SMEs.

Finally, industry clustering is recognised as a valuable economic tool for companies and industry sectors, for regional development and for national competitiveness. SMEs should be encouraged and enabled to partner with other relevant industry players so that the full benefits of collaboration and co-opetition may be realised.

Create and maintain a supportive ecosystem for Dublin based enterprises in which businesses can grow and prosper by access to expertise, workspace, clustering and supply opportunities.



Actions to 2024

Action 1.1: Supporting Enterprise Hub Provision in Dublin – Review and support the development of enterprise hub provision in Dublin.

Action Leader:	Action Partners:	For completion by:
LEO Dublin City	CEAI Enterprise Ireland Dublin LEOs DBIC GEC ICE	Q1 2024

Rationale:

Enterprise hubs play a vital role in Dublin's entrepreneurship and innovation ecosystem. They provide valuable work space, development supports, facilities which also act as focal points for networks and various ecosystem actors to interact and overlap, all as part of supporting enterprises to start and develop. COVID-19 has significantly impacted hubs in Dublin. Going forward into the recovery it is important to review enterprise hub provision, to ascertain the impact of the crisis on hubs and to identify how these vital actors within the ecosystem can be supported.

Enterprise hubs have the potential to be utilised as area-based interventions to help support community, economic and social enterprise development. Although Dublin is the most popular location for start-ups and the base of many leading global companies, there are areas of significant disadvantage. It is important to consider how enterprise hubs could be utilised as part of a project to address disadvantage, support community and economic development and the creation and development of social enterprises.

Action Outcome:

- Research report completed – featuring review of enterprise hub provision in Dublin, the impact of the crisis on hubs and the identification of potential supports needed by hubs.
- Pilot project area identified for the potential utilisation of an enterprise hub as an area-based intervention and relevant enterprise hub feasibility study completed.
- Development of enterprise hubs that are focused on cultivating the start-up and growth of social enterprises.



Action 1.2: Business Mentoring capabilities – Strengthen Business Mentoring Capabilities among existing mentor panels.

Action Leader:	Action Partners:	For completion by:
LEO DLR	MIT Dublin LEOs 3 rd Level Institutes	Q4 2024

Rationale:

Business models, methodology and the landscape are constantly evolving nowhere more so than in the technology sector. It is seen to be increasingly important that mentors are provided with relevant up to date framework and knowledge if they are to engage with companies within the tech sector.

The is not about teaching mentors how to mentor but bringing them up to speed with the latest thinking, trends and frameworks to enable them to provide the best support to their client companies.

Action Outcome:

A series of workshops to be delivered by Bill Aulet. A long-time successful entrepreneur, Bill is the Managing Director of the Martin Trust Center for MIT Entrepreneurship and Professor of the Practice at the MIT Sloan School of Management. He is changing the way entrepreneurship is understood, taught, and practiced around the world. Bill will deliver a series of 2-3 days workshops each year the program is being run.

Action 1.3: Enabling Supply Opportunities for SMEs – Enhancing opportunities for small businesses to benefit from supply openings to include communication, training and awareness among Public and Private/MNC sectors.

Action Leader:	Action Partners:	For completion by:
LEO South Dublin / SDCC	LGMA OGP InterTradeIreland Chambers Ibec SFA	Q3 2022

Rationale:

SMEs are long recognised as the backbone to the Irish economy. The delivery of public services is heavily reliant on the SME sector. The 2021 Report SME Taskforce: National SME and Entrepreneurship Growth Plan recognises that many of our SMEs are missing out on many valuable opportunities to successfully tender for public contracts stating, that: *"SMEs would realise tangible benefits if access to State contracts for innovative products and technologies was made easier for SMEs. There is huge value to entrepreneurs and their companies of being awarded a public sector contract, often establishing them on a growth path to competing for and winning larger contracts in the public and private sector."*

Action Outcome:

- Undertake a study of representative Dublin stakeholders to investigate the procurement environment for indigenous companies including SMEs and Micros in Dublin and then present the findings for submission to the Office of Government Procurement (OGP) as part of their engagement to inform policy.
- Benchmark the existing training and mentoring given to Micro and SME clients and increase the opportunities for companies to undertake training by 20% per annum over the lifetime of the Regional Enterprise Plan.
- Develop an information campaign for all public agencies within the Dublin Region to make them aware of Socially Responsible Public Procurement in their practice.



Action 1.4: Clustering for SMEs – Develop a strategy to enable and cultivate the formation of sectoral clusters in the Dublin Region.

Action Leader:	Action Partners:	For completion by:
LEO DLR	Enterprise Ireland Dublin LEOs DBIC Dublin Chamber GEC South Dublin Chamber St James Hospital	Q3 2022

Rationale:

Grounded in the concepts of collaboration and co-opetition, Industry Clustering is recognised as a valuable economic tool for companies, industry sectors, for regional development and for national competitiveness. The National Competitiveness Council notes that regions successful in facilitating industry clusters have been found to have higher levels of productivity, innovation, employment and prosperity.

Ireland is a global leader in MedTech and has a growing reputation in Digital Healthcare. There is an opportunity to create a MedTech/Healthcare cluster to be a catalyst to future growth in this area.

Action Outcome:

- Develop a strategy for the setting up of clusters and identified funding (if available) to roll out this strategy in targeted sectors in the Dublin Region.
- Develop a pilot scheme in the GEC to incubate MedTech and Digital Healthcare companies that can work in partnership in the first instance with St. James Hospital. This will involve opportunities for innovative MedTech/Healthcare companies to engage with key personnel in St. James Hospital and thereby collaborate and deliver impactful solutions to meet key healthcare needs.



Strategic Objective 2:

Promote context specific, attractive, and adaptive place-making for an evolving world of work and diverse lifestyles, enabling resilience, business recovery and new opportunities for Dublin

Context and Vision to 2024

Dublin has a crucial role as an economic driver of the country. The region needs to become more equitable, sustainable, inclusive, and resilient than it was before the pandemic. It is time to address the long-term sustainability and resilience of the Dublin Region. It must be able to adequately respond to trends that have accelerated over recent years, including certain trends that experienced hyper-acceleration.

Dublin must strive to be amongst the most liveable regions in the world, providing a vibrant and sustainable environment where future generations can live and work. Quality of life is critical to the region's productivity and a key part of a value proposition to attract and retain businesses and workers. Talent is mobile, and the talent we have is a crucial asset of the region. It is not just businesses that invest in an area, people do too.

Actions under this pillar will support Dublin's ability to adapt and respond to external and economic shocks. The region will become more resilient, with a focus on sustainable development and mobility. Digitalisation and smart technologies will be deployed to improve services. The Dublin Region will be recognised globally as a good and safe place to live, work, invest, study, and visit. Enhanced quality of life for all will be accompanied by efforts to improve activities and experiences, including the night-time economy, during all times of the day.



Actions to 2024

Action 2.1: Engage to identify a pathway for the implementation of the '15-minute city' concept to encourage sustainable neighbourhoods.

Action Leader:	Action Partners:	For completion by:
EMRA	NTA DHLGH Dublin City Council DLR County Council Fingal County Council South Dublin County Council Dublin Chamber South Dublin Chamber	Q4 2024

Rationale:

Implementing the '15-minute city' concept through sustainable neighbourhoods would see a range of facilities and services accessible by walking, cycling or high-quality public transport. This is a key component of good placemaking. The integration of land use and transport and provision of social infrastructure in new communities will be incorporated in Development Plans (CDPs) and Local Area Plans and in the preparation of Local Transport Plans/Area Based Transport.

Action Outcome:

- A pathway for the implementation of the '15-minute City' concept would be outlined to create sustainable neighbourhoods.
- This could explore methodologies and the use of mapping and evidence as to how neighbourhoods across Dublin work.
- This would better inform local efforts to significantly enhance the liveability of Dublin, especially in terms of increasing the use of sustainable transport and reducing carbon emissions.
- This would prove transformative for Dublin, benefiting the lives of its residents and the local economy, but also its attractiveness as a place to do business.

Action 2.2: Promote attractive, adaptive, and healthy place-making.

Action Leader:	Action Partners:	For completion by:
Dublin City Council Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council Fingal County Council South Dublin County Council	EMRA MASP Implementation Group Fáilte Ireland	Q4 2024

Rationale:

Regional placemaking policies seek to realise sustained economic growth and employment, including better urban design, public realm, amenities, and heritage and walking and cycling to support active lifestyles, creating healthy and attractive places to live, work, visit and invest in. These are set out in the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy. It prioritises the delivery of compact urban growth.

The reuse of vacant buildings and heritage led urban regeneration will create a sense of place and local distinctiveness. The delivery of green and active travel infrastructure must be coordinated to promote healthy lifestyles and quality of life enhancements.



Action Outcome:

- An aligned policy framework, in each of the local authorities, to the RSES/ MASP that promotes and enables attractive, adaptive and healthy place-making.
- Aligning this action with RSES/MASP will help unlock Project Ireland 2040 URDF funding and, also increases access to EU/ other national funds.
- Supporting significant ready-to-go regeneration projects of scale will contribute to an orderly and compact metropolitan growth strategy.
- The continued roll out of active travel and public realm enhancements will support sustainable regeneration.

Action 2.3: Advance the shared brand vision for Dublin.

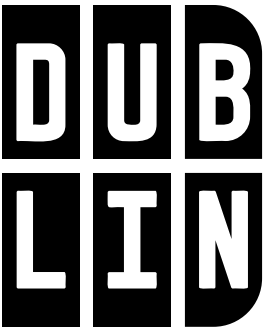
Action Leader:	Action Partners:	For completion by:
Dublin City Council	<div><div>Fingal County Council</div><div>DLR County Council</div><div>SDCC County Council</div><div>Fáilte Ireland</div><div>IDA</div><div>Enterprise Ireland</div><div>Tourism Ireland</div><div>DFA</div><div>DETE</div><div>Dublin Chamber</div><div>South Dublin Chamber</div><div>Ibec</div><div>DCU</div><div>UCD</div><div>TU Dublin</div><div>TCD</div><div>IADT</div><div>Dublin Port</div><div>Dublin Airport</div></div>	Q4 2022

Rationale:

Various stakeholders, across multiple public bodies and representative organisations, promote Dublin to both international and domestic audiences in the context of living, working, investing, studying, and visiting the city. There is an opportunity for these stakeholders to agree a shared vision (across the entire region – city, and county), which is informed by research and insight from relevant target audiences. This shared brand vision will guide the development of a strategy, building on existing brand proposition work, enabling consistency of positioning, and ultimately messaging and execution across all channels. This will optimise Dublin's success and strengthen its reputation globally.

Action Outcome:

- A shared brand vision will enable public and private organisations to promote the Dublin Region as a place to live, work, invest, study, and visit.
- A specialist place brand consultancy will be engaged to research local and international perceptions of Dublin, develop a stakeholder engagement programme and define the vision.



Action 2.4: Convene a Dublin Mayors Forum on the role of safety and security in supporting Dublin's recovery.

Action Leader:	Action Partners:	For completion by:
Dublin City Council Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council Fingal County Council South Dublin County Council	An Garda Síochána Dept. of Justice Ibec Dublin Chamber Retail Ireland South Dublin Chamber Dublin Town National Transport Authority Dublin Bus Irish Rail	Q4 2022

Rationale:

Safety and security affect the attractiveness of Dublin. The region's city and urban centres, and public spaces must be safe and usable for all inhabitants, especially women, older people, ethnic minorities, and marginalised groups. Safety concerns, both real and perceived, limit access to the city centre, including to employment, health, education, political and recreational facilities. It impacts footfall, as well as the ability to encourage people to return to the workplace, and to promote "reverse commuting" amongst hybrid workers. Dublin must be viewed as safe and secure for inhabitants, workers, students, visitors, and tourists at all times of the day.

Action Outcome:

- The forum is a platform for simple but effective measures to increase public safety across Dublin. Involving all stakeholders, it would examine national/international best-practice.
- Suggested outputs include better street lighting; a dedicated Local Policing Forum for the city-centre with local businesses; and security and safety plans for new public areas and spaces.

Action 2.5: Develop Dublin as a flagship for the night-time economy.

Action Leader:	Action Partners:	For completion by:
Dublin City Council	DTCAGSM Fáilte Ireland Ibec Dublin Chamber Dublin Town	Q4 2023

Rationale:

Dublin will have to work harder than ever to entice people into the urban core. The wider experience economy, particularly those activities in the evening and night-time, is a key pillar underpinning sustainable recovery. It is comprised of businesses and a workforce across multiple sectors in Dublin and organisations in the arts, cultural, sporting, and heritage sectors. Effective revitalisation of the city centre requires specific focus on the full range of economic, social, tourist and cultural activities that occur between 6pm and 6am. Incorporating the needs of the night-time economy will reimagine Dublin and creates a 24/7 liveable region.



Action Outcome:

- Dublin City is designated one of the six pilot local authorities by the Night-time Economy Taskforce. Dublin City Council will develop a comprehensive night-time economy strategy focused on a stronger, safer, better-connected night-time economy.
- The position of a night-time economy advisor will be established to coordinate delivery of the strategy.

Action 2.6: Future-proof Dublin to take advantage of new and emerging technology trends.

Action Leader:	Action Partners:	For completion by:
Smart Dublin Dublin City Council Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council Fingal County Council South Dublin County Council	SFI research centres Higher Education Institutions Enterprise Ireland IDA Ibec Dublin Chamber South Dublin Chamber	Q4 2024

Rationale:

The pace of technology adoption is accelerating, even more so since COVID-19. There is a tremendous opportunity to take advantage of global technology trends and use the city as a place to test and trial new innovations. Dublin is home to world leading digital technology companies and a thriving SME and start-up community, together with SFI research centres, a proactive public sector and four local authorities. Leveraging this unique ecosystem Dublin should be a leader in the adoption of new and emerging technologies to deliver better outcomes and service for Dubliners and creating new opportunities for employment and investment.

Action Outcome:

- Dublin's four local authorities will collaborate through a consolidated regional 'Smart Dublin' programme. Dublin will be a 'global testbed' for innovation (e.g. drones, 5G, digital twins, IOT etc). EU funding will be available through leveraging the digital and green deal agendas.
- The Smart District Programme will deliver a localised approach to fast tracking innovation leading to investment.

Action 2.7: Unlocking the connectivity potential of Dublin – A World Class Digital Infrastructure for all Dubliners.

Action Leader:	Action Partners:	For completion by:
Smart Dublin Dublin City Council Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council Fingal County Council South Dublin County Council	DRCD DECC NBI Comreg Ibec Dublin Chamber South Dublin Chamber Telecommunications Industry Ireland	Q4 2024



Rationale:

In order for Dublin to maintain its position as a global technology and innovation hub it is imperative that all residents and businesses have access to high-speed broadband connectivity and gigabit wireless. This will support hybrid working as well as the consumption and creation of existing and future digital services.

Action Outcome:

- Supports the delivery of world class digital infrastructure including high speed broadband to all homes and accelerated rollout of 5G. This will bridge the digital divide.
- Commitment by Dublin's four local authorities to reduce barriers to, and enable, telecoms investment. It supports EU regulatory compliance.
- Community-based Wi-Fi Schemes, digital skills, and innovation programmes to be facilitated.

Action 2.8: Rethinking mobility in Dublin via Mobility-as-a-Service (MaaS).

Action Leader:	Action Partners:	For completion by:
NTA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy: Department of Transport (DoT) • Mobility Providers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Public Transport providers › Private shared mobility providers › Local Govt › Dublin City Council › Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council › Fingal County Council › South Dublin County Council • Industry Forums (e.g.) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › ITS Ireland › Ibec › Dublin Chamber › BITC • Other interested parties <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › TII › Fáilte Ireland • Academia • Technology Providers 	Q4 2023

Rationale:

There is a growing imperative to reduce carbon emissions and congestion in the city. Innovative ways of providing and paying for mobility need to be considered to meet the Government's targets of 50% reduction in carbon emissions by 2030.

Traditionally transport is accessed by mode: a traveller books or pays for each bus, train or taxi separately. Leap Card and Tax saver products has brought the ability to have multimodal public transport trips in Dublin on state subsidised services for a single payment. The NTA has commenced the procurement of the next generation of Leap Card which is an account-based ticketing and payment system and has the potential to be the framework for all mobility payments. The term Mobility-as-Service (MaaS) is often used to describe apps or digital platforms that bring a range of transport options into one place for the user. As MaaS has matured globally, there is now a more societal-benefit and custodial approach emerging where Public Authorities are taking the lead to establish more foundational (back-end) digital infrastructure. This foundation enables the creation of innovative MaaS services to meet diverse user expectations to ultimately provide an attractive alternative to the private car.

Action Outcome:

- Initiate a programme to establish a MaaS governance framework for Dublin/Ireland which takes guidance from (amongst others):
- DoT's Sustainable Mobility Policy.
- Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area.
- Smart Dublin's MaaS for Ireland report which aligns with key thought leadership such as:
 - › A perspective on MaaS from Europe's Transport Authorities (EMTA 2019).
 - › Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy – putting European transport on track for the future (EU Commission 2020).



Strategic Objective 3:

Facilitate every individual to realise their full potential through engagement in economic activity

Context and Vision to 2024

There is increasing evidence, both nationally and internationally, that people from marginalised and disadvantaged communities were disproportionately affected in terms of unemployment during the COVID-19 pandemic. There is existing evidence highlighting that people from such communities took longer than the general population to re-enter the labour market after the economic crisis of 2008-12. The **'Dublin Regional Enterprise Plan to 2024'** is strongly committed to supporting people from marginalised and disadvantaged communities into full labour market activation.

The initial target communities to be prioritised include long-term unemployed, people with disabilities, marginalised youth, immigrants, Travellers and ex-offenders. This objective relates directly to Recommendation 1.15 in the **'Report of the SME Growth Taskforce: SME and Entrepreneurship Growth Plan'** which was to *'maximise the entrepreneurial potential of all demographic groups. Spotlight in particular, those with untapped entrepreneurial potential'*. The objective also addresses 'The Pathways to Work 2021-2025' strategy which is the government's overall framework for activation and employment support policy.

The ambition of this objective is to ensure that people from marginalised and disadvantaged communities have a visible and supportive pathway to labour market activation, and that the rate of unemployment within target communities has been visibly reduced by Q4, 2024.



Action 3.1: Inclusive City – Dublin will become a ‘City of Inclusion’ with the participation of each of the four Local Authorities which will involve the development and implementation of an appropriate strategy.

Action Leader:	Action Partners:	For completion by:
Dublin City Council	Fingal County Council South Dublin County Council DLR County Council	Q4 2024

Rationale:

This action will highlight Dublin's commitment to developing plans and initiatives that are inclusive of every community within its environs. It should be undertaken in conjunction with the development of the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) 2022 – 2028 which details the social and economic goals that will be addressed by local authorities, local businesses, local community and voluntary organisations, and state bodies. Several cities internationally (e.g. London) have created an ‘**Inclusive City Strategy**’, while Euro cities launched an initiative in 2019 called ‘**Inclusive Cities for All**’ which could be a platform for Dublin to develop its strategy.

Action Outcome:

The four Dublin authorities will collaborate to publish an ‘Inclusive City Strategy’ which will incorporate details of employment and self-employment initiatives to support people from marginalised and disadvantaged communities into labour market activation.

Action 3.2: Knowledge Hub – A knowledge hub will be developed which will provide information and signposting offering a pathway to employment for all marginalised and disadvantaged communities.

Action Leader:	Action Partners:	For completion by:
TU Dublin	Government departments and support agencies	Q4 2022

Rationale:

A report in 2020 by the Open Doors Initiative recommended the building of dedicated online knowledge hubs. Their research found that the biggest challenge providers and recipients of employment support services face is understanding the vast array of information, organisations, programmes and welfare benefits that exist for each group. Given that there are significant levels of support already available, the ambition is to offer clear signposting to people from the target communities within the greater Dublin Region regarding whom they should approach dependent upon their current circumstances and future ambitions.

Action Outcome:

The goal of the website is to create a central hub for any person from the target communities who is requiring support.

Each target group would have its own webpage which would clearly detail the supports available and the pathways to labour market activation.



Action 3.3: Employer Awareness – A strong promotional campaign across the employer networks will be developed to motivate employers to support people from marginalised backgrounds into various entry points to full-time employment.

Action Leader:	Action Partners:	For completion by:
Open Doors Initiative	Various public bodies, employment representative organisations and large and medium-sized businesses	Q2 2023

Rationale:

For many people from marginalised and disadvantaged communities, labour market activation is very challenging as they have little or no work experience which means that employers are less likely to offer them a job. They need a small stepping stone to assist them and creating entry points through internships, apprenticeships, part-time positions and short-term contracts would give them the opportunity to gain experience, learn about the job and demonstrate their capabilities.

Action Outcome:

- Leverage existing private and public sector networks to identify paid work placement opportunities that are ring-fenced for people from marginalised and disadvantaged communities.
- Paid work placements (a living wage and upwards) will be offered, part or full-time, for six months minimum, depending on the roles and candidates.

Action 3.4: Neighbourhood Economics – Community-led social enterprises will offer physical locations to support artisan enterprises to get established and sell their products / services, plus offer nascent entrepreneurs a premises to share space, skills and ideas.

Action Leader:	Action Partners:	For completion by:
Partas	Incubation hubs Local development companies Social enterprise organisations	Q2 2023

Rationale:

Recent global events have led to a further decline in economic activity in some local neighbourhoods in major cities. The ambition of urban regeneration is to bring together key stakeholders to empower change within communities from the bottom-up. Neighbourhood Economics is concerned with a social enterprise approach to creating community hubs that will showcase exciting local businesses, provide a destination for supporting artisan and craft-based enterprises to get established and offer nascent entrepreneurs a location to share space, skills and ideas.

Action Outcome:

This action will create a cluster of social enterprises which will support the establishment of local businesses that provide a range of jobs for residents promoting a healthy and diverse local economy that enhances inclusion and growth.



Action 3.5: Digital Divide – CDETB, through its partnership with Google, will provide access to the Google Professional Certificates initiative. CDETB will also collaborate with other stakeholders and will provide Digital Literacy and other IT related training to marginalised and disadvantaged communities.

Action Leader:	Action Partners:	For completion by:
CDETB	Google Large companies supporting IT literacy Skillset Development Employment bodies	Q4 2024

Rationale:

Research by Accenture in 2020 highlighted that “at least 25% of the Irish population is excluded from an increasingly digital society because of socio-economic reasons. The ‘digitally disengaged’ risk further isolation as communication and social interaction continue to move online”.

As government services, internet banking, and online shopping have been increasingly become part of daily lives, a situation magnified during the COVID-19 pandemic, people with low digital skills become more alienated and left behind. This digital divide is most evident amongst marginalised and disadvantaged groups which heightens their barriers to labour market activation.

Action Outcome:

- CDETB will provide training to both employed and unemployed people from targeted communities to improve their digital skills.
- Learners can also access a range of courses delivered by CDETB, plus specific training interventions will be developed as such needs are identified.

Action 3.6: Community Groups – Support will be provided to initiate and grow voluntary community groups who can offer economic and social services at a local level.

Action Leader:	Action Partners:	For completion by:
Carmichael Centre for Voluntary Groups	Local community groups and citizens willing to lead new community-based initiatives	Q2 2023

Rationale:

It is arguable that the COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the high levels of communal solidarity that Irish citizens are potentially capable of achieving. Indeed, the critical civic engagement role played by the community and voluntary sector has brought renewed focus on the term ‘social capital’ and its value in supporting economic and social initiatives through community groups. A decline in the levels of volunteering caused by various legal and social concerns, the lower levels of engagement by young people in community groups due to competing attractions for their time, and the dearth of management and governance training supports for community group leaders has led to the pressing need for relevant supports for community groups.

Action Outcome:

This action will provide governance, management, financial and legal training for leaders of existing community groups, plus a range of supports for citizens who are willing to lead new community-based initiatives.



Strategic Objective 4:

Enable and position business as leaders in Dublin's low carbon transition

Context and Vision to 2024

Cities are major contributors to climate change, material consumption and waste generation, with the potential to be cradles of innovation and transformation. We believe that with the right actions and supports we could position businesses in the Dublin Region as leaders in the low carbon transition. This objective will work to demonstrate how businesses across the region are driving innovation to create circular economy solutions and growing the number of resilient jobs within their enterprises.

The Circular Economy Action Plan is a cornerstone of the European Green Deal and presents the importance of engaging city regions in the circular economy and low carbon transition. In the European Union 75% of citizens live in urban areas, and 60-80% of greenhouse gas emissions are created by cities. Dublin as a region, in implementing actions that transition us to a circular economy, can place itself at the heart of sustainable economic, social and environmental impact.

The Climate Action Plan 2021 sets out the national objectives in Ireland's roadmap to becoming a climate neutral economy and resilient society by 2050. We have examples of good practice in the Dublin Region to date with Dublin Chamber's "Sustainability Academy", the "MODOS – Circular Economy Training Programme" initiated by Dublin City Council and the Eastern Midlands Regional Waste Management Planning Office. The Dublin Bay Biosphere engagement with the business community and Green for Micro and a suite of Green Business supports developed and delivered by Enterprise Ireland and the four Dublin Local Enterprise Offices also showcase the strong foundations that we are building from.

The Dublin Region is also home to the national circular economy centre, the Re-discovery Centre based in Ballymun, the *Responsible Innovation Summit* held its fifth conference in 2021 and the launch of the *Profit with Purpose* magazine created to showcase stories of how businesses are leading change at home and abroad. The actions in this Plan are designed to build on this good work and further accelerate innovation and change. We will work to utilise the strength of collaboration between public and private agencies across the Dublin Region, who have input into the development of this objective, and who will deliver on the four actions designed to progress this vision.

By 2024 we will have raised the profile and level of engagement of businesses across the region who are transitioning to a low carbon economy and reducing their emissions. We will see the establishment of a "Spoke and Hub" model designed to signpost businesses to key supports. We will be implementing the recommendations of a feasibility study examining the potential of establishing a Circular Economy Hotspot in an established and well-connected enterprise space for the benefit of businesses in the Dublin Region. We will be engaging with the innovative solutions developed by Start Up Businesses participating in the Circular Economy Climate KIC Accelerator programme and we will be working towards building an impact investor community who will be investing in innovative businesses designed to bring solutions to the climate related challenges and opportunities faced.



Action 4.1: Providing Business Support Mapping / Spoke Hub – Regulatory and Policy Content and Practical Business Supports Sign Posting.

Action Leader:	Action Partners:	For completion by:
Dublin Chamber	Enterprise Ireland Dublin LEOs IDA Ireland Ibec South Dublin Chamber ISEN DLR Green Business Officer EMWMPO SEAI	Q4 2024

Rationale:

There is a complex and evolving framework of policy, legislation, and regulation that businesses need to understand, engage with, and to action on in order to be resilient and competitive in a low carbon economy. If we are to achieve and exceed our 2030 (51% reduction in Greenhouse Gases) and 2050 (Climate Neutrality) targets, we need to accelerate our work to transition to a low carbon and circular economy. We need to provide better sign posting, points of engagement for businesses and showcasing opportunities for businesses that are showing leadership in this transition.

We will establish an advisory service that seeks to enhance, support, and optimise the existing and evolving funding streams and training and skills supports in this space. We will aim to draw on the wider experience and networking capability of the members of this group who will be kept updated on progress. This will provide a framework to encourage businesses to avail of supports and create better links to national and European work utilising the Enterprise Europe Network (EEN) services (EEN is being delivered by Dublin Chamber, the four Dublin Local Enterprise Offices and Enterprise Ireland).

This action is designed to create a regional 'Hub and Spoke' model whereby an advisory service will be provided to businesses in the Dublin Region to support action on sustainability. The 'Hub' will offer the advisory service whereby businesses/clients can make an appointment to speak with the advisor who will then work with the business to diagnose their needs, provide referrals and assist them to action. Dublin Chamber will form the 'Hub' linking with the 'Spokes' in EI, LEOs, IDA, Ibec, Irish Social Enterprise Network (ISEN), SEAI, EPA, the Eastern Midlands Regional Waste Management Planning Offices and other relevant stakeholders.

The first step will see the completion of a mapping exercise designed to capture the context and the supports that are available to small and micro enterprises, these supports will include relevant funding streams, training and upskilling, government information points and dedicated website and specialist consultancy services. This work will see the establishment of the "Hub and Spoke" model that will not only assist businesses in navigating the support network and make informed choices on actions to strengthen their business and make it more resilient, but it will also strengthen the networking between Dublin Chamber the "Hub" and the contacts in the other "Spoke" agencies and organisations. This model will not only provide information on supports but will also share the policy, regulatory and other frameworks driving change and provide profiling opportunities where the business leaders in this space can be showcased.

Action Outcome:

- Complete the support mapping exercise and disseminate the findings.
- Appoint a Project Manager in Dublin Chamber to establish the advisory service forming the "Hub" that will be accessible to businesses in the Dublin Region, utilising the model of service delivery of the European Enterprise Network (EEN).
- Establish the linkages between the "Hub" and the "Spokes" based in enterprise and support agencies of Enterprise Ireland, IDA Ireland, Ibec, SEAI, ISEN, the four Dublin LEOs and the Eastern and Midlands Regional Waste Management Planning Office who will be invited to nominate a contact person to provide this service.
- Once established the "Hub" and "Spoke" model is intended to operate for the duration of the DREP for the benefit of businesses based in the Dublin Region.



Action 4.2: Develop Circular Economy Hub.

Action Leader:	Action Partners:	For completion by:
Dublin City Council	Guinness Enterprise Centre The Impacter Dublin LEOs Enterprise Ireland	Q4 2022

Rationale:

In Europe, there is a well-known hub for Circular Economy called a Circular Hotspot. They are based in countries/regions, they are run independently and collaborate in promoting CE and helping businesses in this field. The Plan will examine the feasibility of establishing a Circular Hotspot for the Dublin Region that will act to accelerate the ambition to position businesses as leaders in Dublin's low carbon transition with an opportunity to link into and share learning with other locations and Circular Hotspots.

Having a Dublin Region Circular Hotspot embedded in a traditional business/enterprise environment would help to incorporate CE practices and knowledge into business as usual, while helping those already active to raise their profile, network, share learning and demonstrate leadership. This model would be linked to other locations in the Dublin Region and beyond with a view to supporting and celebrating a wide range of businesses on their CE journey.

Research is required to establish the requirements of a Circular Hotspot for the Dublin Region and to seek to ensure that it is resourced to meet the needs of businesses in the region. Based on the outcome of this research work, will be progressed to seek to establish a Dublin Region Hotspot with the Guinness Enterprise Centre (GEC) acting as enterprise centre partner. The GEC will act as a test bed connecting with a wide range of businesses and enterprise locations, with over 100 enterprises operating from the GEC employing over 450 staff, with links to 60 enterprise hubs across the country and engagement with 30 top business schools the benefit and learning can be widely distributed. The GEC has undertaken measures to develop a carbon neutral enterprise centre, which will be an ideal venue to host Circular Hotspot events and initiatives and will build on the linkages established across the Dublin Region and beyond. As we believe that this action has the capacity to support innovation and assist businesses to pivot and respond to new market realities relating to climate change, sustainability and innovation to explore opportunities for feasibility funding.

Action Outcome:

- Secure feasibility funding to progress for Circular Hotspot.
- Conduct research into the establishment of a Circular Hotspot for the Dublin Region.
- Establish a Circular Hotspot test bed space within the Guinness Enterprise Centre (GEC) to trial events and initiatives that will assist the learning during the feasibility study phase connecting to businesses across the Dublin Region.
- Engage with the Impacter and our partner's and collaborators on the DREP and other stakeholders to successfully delivery on this action.

Disseminate the findings of the feasibility study to explore ways to progress the establishment of a Circular Hotspot for the Dublin Region, to support the creation of circular economy jobs and driving innovative solutions to circular economy challenges.



Action 4.3: Support Innovation Capacity – Partnering with EIT Climate KIC to develop a Circular Economy European Accelerator Programme.

Action Leader:	Action Partners:	For completion by:
Eastern Midlands Waste Management Planning Office	Tangent Trinity College Dublin City Council Enterprise Ireland other stakeholders	Q4 2023

Rationale:

There will be significant job creation opportunities in areas such as circular design, circular construction, circular services, repair, recycling and circular food expertise as we transition to a low carbon economy. The development of a Circular Economy European Accelerator Programme led from Dublin will create a framework where we can explore some of the areas where those jobs could be created, evolve solutions to city challenges and examine ways to commercialise these ideas/prototypes and build the capacity of small and micro enterprises in this area in engaging with procurement opportunities. The Circular Cities, 3-year accelerator programme led by Tangent in Trinity College Dublin is part funded through EIT – (European Institute of Innovation and Technology) – Climate KIC programme and will operate as a pan European project. The work will have the support of the Technical University of Denmark and the Leuven Institute.

CE challenges facing the participating cities are being identified and a new group of innovative businesses will join the accelerator each year and will work to develop their business solutions in response to the challenges identified and with the support of the public and private sector. The participating cities are Dublin, Berlin, Athens, and Copenhagen and the private sector partner is UPS. The accelerator is working to attract additional partners over the lifetime of the programme.

The accelerator project aims to give participating European cities access to innovative talent (start-ups) from across Europe to help to develop solutions to circular challenges. The project activities include acceleration training for start-ups, matchmaking with problem owners (city officials) and will examine the possibility of investment, resulting in innovative solutions proposed and assessed.

Action Outcome:

- Commence early-stage stakeholder engagement to support the establishment of the Accelerator.
- Recruit 15 start-up businesses who will engage with city officials to respond to city challenges. Select 10 start-ups to continue in the accelerator working to refine their products and services benefiting from the collaborative process established within the accelerator programme.
- Work to develop solutions that can be shared with the participating cities and to profile the start-up businesses.
- Further development of the Accelerator programme with opportunities to add new partners and to select new start-ups who will benefit from participating in the programme.



Action 4.4: Develop Investor Community – Based on EU Investment Area.

Action Leader:	Action Partners:	For completion by:
Sustainability Works	Dublin City Council Impact Investors Dublin LEOs DBIC South Dublin Chamber Enterprise Ireland	Q4 2024

Rationale:

New models will be required to support businesses in the financing of their transition to a low carbon economy and can also support wealth generation in communities that are addressing poverty and other socio-economic challenges. The Global Impact Investing Network (GIIN) describes impact investments as “investments made with the intention to generate positive, measurable social and environmental impact alongside a financial return.” These characteristics – **intentionality, financial return, and measurement of impact**, are made across a range of asset classes, including venture capital, private equity, private debt, and real assets. This means that investors are investing in companies (e.g., equity) and projects (e.g., debt) that are developing solutions across a range of sectors, including but not limited to: sustainable agriculture, renewable energy, biodiversity/ nature conservation, mobility, housing, healthcare, and education. Many impact investors are aligning their investments to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to allow social and environmental impacts to be measured and reported against the SDGs.

We would like to build an impact investment community where more investors would show leadership in environmental and societal challenges e.g. climate change or access to education. Sustainability Works will lead on this action area, and will bring together key stakeholders, including the Irish Venture Capital Association, to work with us on this objective. Development of an impact investor ecosystem will benefit the Dublin Region by exploring what steps investors can take to translate high level international frameworks into a local context. Under this action we would seek to build an impact investment community where more investors would be showcased for their leadership in this area.

Action Outcome:

- Prepare a short paper to define what we mean by “Impact Investment” and disseminate.
- Invite the IVCA and others to work with us to develop an impact investor community.
- Establish an impact investor network, that will assist the pipeline of businesses/ projects from the Dublin Region who are seeking to attract impact investment.
- Define and agree actions that the impact investor network can take to advance impact investing in the Dublin Region.
- Implement actions that supports the development and profiling of a Dublin Region Impact Investment community.



Strategic Objective 5:

Ensure the availability of skills and talent to realise Dublin's future economic potential

Context and Vision to 2024

Ensure the availability of skills and talent to realise Dublin's future economic potential. This objective has a Regional and National imperative across all companies operating in the economy.

The objective is to create a best-in-class training environment for companies operating in the Dublin Region, with the ambition that the results can be replicated across Ireland.

The objective is being developed with reference to specific areas where gaps have been identified and will address the following:

- Upgrading of skills/reskilling.
- Focus on skills/knowledge needs for sustainable economy.
- Focus on SME skills.
- Ensure early intervention through joint initiatives with a cross regional perspective.
- Prioritise skills throughout the new Regional Enterprise Plan as an enabler for economic growth.
- Increase awareness among business owners on the training supports available.
- Consideration to be given to the needs of SMEs, FDI clients as well as new start-ups.
- Improve communication and facilitate the creation of support networks for companies seeking to develop new skills.



Action 5.1: Provide 'Awareness Events' on training supports and programmes provided by Agencies and Educational providers.

Action Leader:	Action Partners:	For completion by:
Enterprise Ireland	IDA Dublin City Council Regional Skills Forum REP Dublin Co-Ordinator Dublin Chamber South Dublin Chamber Ibec	Q4 2024 (ongoing awareness events each year)

Rationale:

- Develop 'Awareness Events' on available company training supports.
- The awareness events to engage companies in skills development opportunities, promote skills development and ensure that companies have the information they need to upskill.
- The awareness events to be designed to ensure there is no information gap preventing companies from engaging in skills development.
- Engage with companies (particularly SMEs) regarding how to assess their training needs and how to access funding.
- Bring stakeholders together to ensure consistency of message across agencies promoting and providing supports to companies e.g. Enterprise Ireland, IDA Ireland, Dublin Chambers, Ibec, HEIs /SOLAS /Skillnet/LEOs.

Action Outcome:

- The first step will see the preparation and delivery of 'awareness events' each year.
- The second step will involve the team recording the number of attendees at events and measuring future applications for support.

The events will seek to drive:

- › Increased awareness of skills training opportunities and how companies access training opportunities within the region.
- › Increased number of companies exposed to available supports and seeking appropriate training supports.

Action 5.2: Leading the Way SME Project – Dublin Regional Pilot.

Action Leader:	Action Partners:	For completion by:
Enterprise Ireland	Dublin City Council Regional Skills Forum REP Dublin Co-Ordinator Dublin Chamber South Dublin Chamber Small Firms Association	Q4 2022 Agree Pilot plans Q4 2024 Implementation plans



Rationale:

The 'Leading the Way' project is a National SME focused initiative led by DETE which seeks to support SMEs in response to the OECD Report. The activities of 'leading the way' Government initiative aligns and overlaps directly with activities planned for the Regional Enterprise Plan.

Prior to accessing any supports a company needs to determine its own training needs and requirements.

The objective of this initiative is to assist Owner Managers and Managers of SMEs determine training needs and requirements.

The proposal is to develop a competency model framework for SMEs across key pillars of Operations, Digital and Innovation, Leadership and People and Sales and Marketing which can be used by the Owner Manager/Manager.

This tool will support owner managers and managers of SMEs self-assess training needs. The SME Owner Manager and Managers will then be in a position to access appropriate supports from the State to address the identified training needs.

Action Outcome:

Dublin Region to be the pilot region for the initiative which would create a framework to enable Owner Managers and Managers assess their training needs and then to determine where to connect the specific training supports in meeting skills needs.

Action 5.3: Carry out a review of the current skills landscape.

Action Leader:	Action Partners:	For completion by:
Enterprise Ireland	IDA Dublin City Council Regional Skills Forum REP Dublin Co-Ordinator Dublin Chamber South Dublin Chamber Ibec	Q4 2022 Complete Audit Q4 2024 Implement actions

Rationale:

A review of the current skills landscape to be carried out by an independent party. The objective of the review is to assess the skills landscape from an SME perspective in Ireland.

The project will appraise the current landscape/provision and performance. It will investigate the factors inhibiting/discouraging SMEs from engaging in the current supports and how to improve engagement. It will outline recommendations and actions based on best practice (internationally) to ensure optimal company engagement. It will also explore the customer journey within the current provision and make recommendations to optimise customer experience.

The review to be completed in 2022 and the actions implemented by 2024.

Action Outcome:

- The first step will see the completion of a review of the current skills landscape in order to identify how to optimise the take up of training supports in the region.
- The second step will seek to implement the recommendations from the review process.



Strategic Objective 6:

Strengthen Dublin's Ecosystem

Context and Vision to 2024

Strengthen Dublin's ecosystem and enable sustainable development and growth for the Dublin Region. The objective as the capital city is to leverage Dublin's Tier 1 status to provide for continued economic growth for the city and for the country.

The objective will be developed by fostering growth through a symbiotic relationship with relevant stakeholders and maximisation of available resources:

- Regional Enterprise Development projects that have the potential to have a significant impact on future sustainability and growth for Dublin;
- Maintaining close working relationships with the agencies and HEIs to develop new projects;
- Create partnerships with universities, companies and agencies through enterprise development projects for the Dublin Region.
- Identify and harness new opportunities that can be commercialised to provide economic development in key areas of future technology e.g. LINC Collaborative in cybersecurity;
- Maximise the impact of the Trinity Innovation District in terms of creating new companies, scaling existing companies and creating clusters of innovation;
- Explore and develop sectoral strengths through cooperation and continued dialogue with stakeholders;
- Sustain region specific projects that are unique, specific and measurable in order to monitor growth;
- Support Regional Enterprise initiatives that can aim to deliver a pipeline of projects.
- Continue to attract Foreign Direct Investment to strengthen the Ecosystem.



Action 6.1: Supporting the Development of Regional Enterprise Development Plans.

Action Leader:	Action Partners:	For completion by:
Enterprise Ireland	IDA Dublin LEOs HEIs	Q4 2024

Rationale:

- Regional Enterprise Development funded projects play a vital role in Dublin's entrepreneurship and innovation ecosystem.
- The projects have the potential to be utilised to help support community, economic and social enterprise development.
- The projects encourage dialogue and cooperation that can lever innovative initiatives to future proof the city.

Action Outcome:

Position Dublin as a Tier 1 capital city through nurturing and supporting collaboration between stakeholders to maximise the number of new start-ups, scaling businesses and innovative initiatives for a sustainable and competitive capital city.



3

Implementation

The consultation process to develop the Dublin Regional Enterprise Plan (REP) to 2024 was enhanced by an understanding amongst stakeholders of the importance of ownership, collaboration, and the definition and delivery of specific measurable actions that could add value to the existing activities being undertaken by the Enterprise Agencies, Local Enterprise Offices and other relevant bodies involved in supporting enterprise development. These priorities are reflected in the implementation structure for the Dublin REP to 2024.

Implementation of the REP will be overseen by a Regional Enterprise Steering Committee. The Steering Committee for the Dublin Region will continue to be chaired by Susan Spence, and this is welcomed by Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment. The functions of the Steering Committee are as follows:

- Oversee and drive delivery of the REP.
- Nominate and secure Public and Private Sector leads, where appropriate, to support delivery of the Strategic Objectives.
- Oversee the formation of working groups as necessary to drive implementation of actions.
- Explore and propagate new ideas and opportunities for collaborative projects and funding opportunities.
- Provide a forum for the sharing of updates and information by members on key enterprise development initiatives including those set out by the Agencies and LEOs in this Plan and other pertinent updates (incl. REDF, RSES, URDF, RRDF Project Ireland 2040 etc.).
- Oversee, contribute to and sign off on Progress Reports to the Department.

The Chairperson will convene at least two meetings of the Steering Committee per year and will present a progress update on the implementation of the Plan. The Chairperson will also lead the Committee in the preparation of both a mid-term and a final progress report, to be submitted to the Department. These reports will be the subject of a meeting between the Chairperson and/or the Steering Committee and the Minister during one of the biannual meetings.

The Dublin Regional Steering Committee will oversee the formation of six working groups to drive delivery of each of the strategic objectives and their list of actions in the REP. Working Groups will convene as frequently as is required and will report on progress to the Chairperson and the Regional Steering Committee.

The Department will be responsible for the oversight and coordination of the REPs at national level. A National Oversight Group (NOG), which all Chairpersons attend, will oversee implementation of the new REPs. This group will be chaired by Ministers of State Robert Troy and Damien English and will provide a fora for the Chairs to share good practice and identify potential areas for inter-regional cooperation.



4

Enterprise Agencies and Local Enterprise Office

The Regional Enterprise Plans to 2024 are based on a collaborative approach to regional enterprise development. The Strategic Objectives and actions identified are set alongside and complement the core activities of the Enterprise Agencies and the Local Enterprise Offices (LEOs). Each Agency have corporate strategies which include national level objectives as well as activities that support specific regional enterprise development potential. This Chapter provides an overview of those Agency activities and that of the LEOs in the Dublin Region to 2024.



4.1 Enterprise Ireland: Focus to 2024

Enterprise Ireland is the government organisation responsible for the development and growth of Irish enterprises in world markets. Enterprise Ireland work in partnership with Irish enterprises to help them start, grow, innovate and achieve international growth. In this way, Enterprise Ireland support sustainable economic growth, regional development and secure employment.

Balanced regional development is central to Enterprise Ireland's remit. Enterprise Ireland manage a number of regional development funds on behalf of Government and work in collaboration with key stakeholders in all regions to deliver regional enterprise infrastructure, strengthen the enterprise base and deliver regional growth.

Strengthening regional enterprise development is a key focus in the new *Enterprise Ireland Strategy 2022-2024*, reflecting the varying needs and opportunities of enterprise across the different regions.

Recent developments in the Dublin Region

Enterprise Ireland's team of Development Advisors and capability specialists work with over 1,697 companies employing more than 66,704 people in the Dublin Region.

Between 2018-2020, Enterprise Ireland invested €65.3m in companies in the Dublin Region supporting employment creation, innovation, competitiveness, and expansion. Dublin sectoral strengths include ICT, Fintech, Food, MedTech and Engineering.



A strategic priority is to support successful domestically focused companies to seek growth through international markets. While Enterprise Ireland's head office is in Dublin, it has been recognised that a dedicated resource is required to work with successful, currently non-exporting companies, specifically in Dublin to develop exporting capability and target overseas markets for their next phase of growth. This has been recently implemented and underscores Enterprise Ireland's commitment to support local, ambitious, indigenous enterprise.

The enterprise ecosystem in the Dublin Region has been and continues to be strengthened significantly through the €11.5m Enterprise Ireland funding awarded to infrastructural projects under the Regional Enterprise Development Fund (REDF). The seven funded projects have strong themes of skills and capability development, supporting industry transition to new technologies and increasing the level of innovation. These initiatives assist the enterprise base in the region to become more resilient, competitive, and diversified. The recently completed exemplar project of the Guinness Enterprise Centre received €3.2m from REDF funding towards a €10m expansion, and currently houses 160+ start-up companies and 100+ coworking companies.

The LINC Collaborative initiative at TU Dublin received €2.1m support under the REDF to develop the key area of Cyber Security. This demonstrates a need in Ireland for companies to have access to academic institutions from which to draw the highest level of expertise and the most up to date technology to address the challenges for the future. REDF projects in the region continue to provide for start-ups, micro and SMEs from inception to scale.

A key programme delivered by Enterprise Ireland in 2020 was the Powering the Regions Enterprise Centre Scheme, helping centres to support entrepreneurs, micro and small businesses, and a growing demand for remote working. €1.7m in development funding was allocated to 17 Enterprise Centres across the Dublin Region. The funds are being directed to improve facilities, COVID-19 protection, increased investment in IT and Communications hardware and software, and allow the centres deliver one-to-one supports for their clients.

Investment in regional infrastructure that supports innovation and entrepreneurship is central to Enterprise Ireland's regional development strategy. The Dublin Region benefits from important well-established supports such as the four Local Enterprise Offices in the region and the New Frontiers Programmes in TU Dublin Blanchardstown, Grangegorman and Tallaght, and Nova UCD in affiliation with Dun Laoghaire, Institute of Art Design and Technology (IADT). In 2020, 130 entrepreneurs were involved in phase 1 and 53 were enrolled in phase 2 of the program.



Clustering between enterprise, finance and academia has been identified as critical to developing a strong enterprise ecosystem. The Regional Technology Clustering Fund awarded funding of €354k to TU Dublin to develop the Design and Construct cluster at Broombridge.

Enterprise Ireland's objectives for the Dublin Region to 2024

Enterprise Ireland's development objective for the Dublin Region to 2024 is to focus on the dual priorities of delivering an effective and supportive enterprise ecosystem and driving entrepreneurship activity across the Dublin Region.

To support these objectives, our strategic priorities for the Dublin Region to 2024 include:

- The successful delivery of projects funded under the regional development funds including the Regional Enterprise Development Fund, the Regional Technology Clustering Fund and the Powering the Regions Enterprise Centre Scheme.
- Collaboration with local stakeholders to identify gaps in the Dublin Region's enterprise ecosystem and to plan and help fund essential regional enterprise-enabling infrastructure.
- Working with partners such as the LEOs, the BICs, HEIs and regional accelerators to deliver initiatives that support entrepreneurship and foster an exciting new generation of innovative and ambitious start-ups in the Dublin Region.
- Enterprise Ireland's sectoral and capability specialists working closely with clients across the Dublin Region to support their growth plans as well as supporting and assisting companies on transformative initiatives such as climate change, digitalisation and sustainability.
- Continue to strengthen linkages between the Dublin Region's third level and research institutes and industry through the Disruptive Technologies Innovation Fund, the Commercialisation Fund, Innovation Partnerships, and Innovation Vouchers.

Enterprise Ireland is a member of the Regional Enterprise Plan Steering Committee for the Dublin Region and looks forward to working closely with our partners on the implementation of this Plan and continuing the strong collaborative links and collective effort that is essential to delivering on our ambition for the Dublin Region.



4.2 IDA Ireland: Focus to 2024

IDA Ireland's mission is to partner with multi-national companies (MNCs) to win and develop foreign direct investment, providing jobs for the economic and social benefit of Ireland. IDA Ireland works with key stakeholders both in the public and private sectors to deliver on this mandate. IDA Ireland partners closely with Enterprise Ireland across the regions on multiple initiatives, including under the Regional Enterprise Plans and in relation to the provision of property solutions to the indigenous base, where appropriate.

IDA's strategy *Driving Recovery and Sustainable Growth 2021-2024* was developed in the context of the Government's National Economic Recovery Plan and positions IDA to respond to the emerging trends that are accelerating as a result of the COVID-19 global pandemic. It identifies the opportunities for sustainable growth among IDA's established base of clients through a focus on transformative investments to increase the productivity of Irish operations and their workforce through RD&I, digitisation, training, and actions on sustainability. Crucially it also maintains a focus on attracting the next generation of leading MNCs to locate in Ireland, further driving sustainable growth and maximising the impact of FDI in Ireland to 2024 and beyond. The Strategy has five pillars:

- 1 **Growth pillar** – win investment to support job creation and economic activity
- 2 **Transformation pillar** – partner with clients for future growth in Ireland
- 3 **Regions pillar** – win investment to advance regional development
- 4 **Sustainability pillar** – embrace an inclusive and green recovery; and
- 5 **Impact pillar** – maximise FDI's positive impact on local businesses and communities

Regional development is at the centre of IDA's strategy. Although FDI cannot be the sole contributor in addressing the challenges facing Ireland's regions – from Brexit to COVID-19, digital transformation to the climate transition – it can have a significant impact in propelling economic recovery and realising more balanced growth.

IDA is targeting half of all investments (400) from 2021-2024 to regional locations and is maintaining the same high level of investment as targeted in IDA's previous strategy for each region of the country.

Under the regions pillar of *Driving Recovery and Sustainable Growth*, IDA will:

- Win investment to propel recovery and support development in each region;
- Partner with existing regional clients to transform through innovation and upskilling;
- Develop clusters to support transformation, spill overs and linkages;
- Collaborate with clients and stakeholders to facilitate remote working opportunities; and
- Continue to roll-out IDA's regional property programme, including delivery of 19 Advanced Building Solutions (ABS) to regional locations over the course of the strategy.

The global competition for FDI is intense as countries compete for investment to support economic recovery. It is in this context – of greater competition for potentially fewer projects – that IDA wins investment for Ireland and engages with MNCs on the benefits of choosing regional locations for their investment projects. Key to IDA's success in the past and essential to success in the future is strategic collaboration with national and local stakeholders to ensure that each region has the necessary conditions in place to foster enterprise and innovation and attract investment and talent. The delivery of necessary infrastructure and property solutions, the availability of a skilled and future ready workforce, and an emphasis on quality of life and placemaking in each region are pre-requisites to winning continued investment from MNCs.

Regional Economic Impact of FDI

IDA client companies directly employed almost 145,000 people outside of Dublin in 2020. Combined with indirect employment of 116,000, an estimated 260,000 jobs in the regions were supported by FDI in 2020. Clients in regional locations had an annual spend of €7.9bn on payroll, €2.7bn on Irish services and €2.2bn on Irish materials in 2019. They contributed a further €1.3bn on in-house R&D. These linkages support diverse, innovative, and vital local economies.



Over the period 2021-2024 IDA Ireland will:

- Win 800 total investments to support job creation of 50,000 and economic activity
- Partner with clients for future growth through 170 RD&I and 130 Training investments
- Win 400 investments to advance Regional Development
- Embrace a green recovery with 60 sustainability investments
- Target a 20% increase in client expenditure in Ireland to maximise the impact of FDI

Read more about IDA's 2001-2024 Strategy *Driving Recovery and Sustainable Growth* at www.idaireland.com.

IDA Ireland objectives for the Dublin Region to 2024

As the location of Ireland's capital city, the Dublin Region plays a key role in attracting FDI to the country. The city-region enjoys a strong profile internationally as a location of choice for MNCs seeking a European base, offering a strong, vibrant ecosystem of both indigenous and multinational companies operating across a diverse range of sectors. Dublin also boasts a large young talent base, excellent educational facilities and, above all, offers a great place to live. The Dublin Region continues to be a strong performer for attracting FDI and remains the country's leading city of international scale.

Dublin has repeatedly attracted significant investment across all sectors and activities with prominent investment in Technology, Content, Consumer and Business Services, International Financial Services, Biopharmaceuticals and Global Business Services. FDI in Dublin also has a high concentration of R&D investment particularly in the Technology sector.

IDA will target 400 investments for the Dublin Region in the period 2021-2024. This will involve supporting and partnering with the strong base of existing MNCs across the region, winning continued new FDI investments that build on the strengths and competencies of the region, focussing on opportunities arising in Global Business Services, High Tech Manufacturing and Research, Development and Innovation and Sustainability.

IDA will also support client operations on their sustainability and climate change plans and partnering with key stakeholders to support the continued growth of MNC operations and to continue to enhance Dublin's offering as a leading destination for FDI.

Dublin is home to over 861 companies employing 112,705 people with an estimated 90,164 additional indirect jobs supported in the regional economy. These companies include Microsoft, Facebook, Amazon, LinkedIn, Twitter, CITI, Bank of America, Mastercard, Pfizer, MSD, Takeda, Hubspot, Tik Tok and Paypal. Over the last 12-18 months Dublin has seen a large number of investments from companies including TikTok, 3M, Accenture, Pfizer, Workday, Stripe and Microsoft, to name a few.

The increasing influence of emerging will continue to create new opportunities for multinational companies across the Dublin Region in a wide number of areas such as cybersecurity, data analytics, artificial intelligence, and smart manufacturing. It is also enabling opportunities in home and hub working.

Dublin is strongly supported by third level education providers, including Trinity College Dublin, Dublin City University (DCU), University College Dublin (UCD) and Technological University Dublin (TU Dublin). With close to 100,000 undergraduate and postgraduate students in total, these third-level institutions actively work to build industry links and offer extensive research capabilities to companies through a number of Technology and Applied Research Centres, such as the National Institute for Bioprocessing Research and Training (NIBRT).

Successful placemaking will provide a competitive edge when attracting and retaining the skills and talent on which FDI is reliant. It is important that Dublin continues to be a dynamic city that remains attractive for companies seeking a location of international scale for their global operations.

IDA Ireland is a member of the Regional Enterprise Plan Steering Committee for the Dublin Region and looks forward to working closely with our partners on the implementation of this Plan and continuing the strong spirit of collaboration and collective effort that is essential to delivering on our ambition for the Dublin Region.





Local Enterprise Office

4.3 Local Enterprise Office (LEOs): Focus to 2024

The Local Enterprise Offices (LEOs) aim to promote entrepreneurship, foster business start-ups and develop existing micro and small businesses to drive job creation and to provide accessible high quality supports for your Business ideas.

The Local Enterprise Office is the *First Stop Shop* for anyone seeking information and support on starting or growing a business in Ireland.

Entrepreneurs and Businesses are supported to:

- Increase exports
- Build resilience
- Increase productivity
- Prepare for the Low carbon economy
- Embrace the Digital economy
- Innovate
- Be managed by ambitious and capable individuals
- Fuel regional growth

Recent developments in the Dublin Region

Regions	Client Numbers 2021	Total Jobs 2021	Net Job Change 2021
Dublin	1,165	5,282	376

The Dublin Region which includes the Capital City at the time of the 2016 Census it had a population of 1.35 million people representing 28% of the national population. It generates 40% of the GDP of the state. It is a predominately a service 'based economy with services accounting for 81% of total activity while manufacturing and construction combined accounting for 19%. It is a digitally connected region with 95% of households have broadband. Dublin performs a significant economic, administrative and cultural role. It operates as a gateway to the European Union for many businesses – multi-national corporations as well as export-oriented local SMEs.

Despite the economic challenges of 2020 CRIF Vision Net reported that some 21,924 new companies were formed in Ireland. Dublin continues to be the most popular location for business formation accounting for 10,089 of new companies formed in 2020. At the end of 2020 the labour force in the Dublin Region totalled c740,000 or 30% of the national total which is a marginal drop on the 750,000 seen pre-pandemic.

In addition, the overall numbers employed have fallen by 32,000 due to the pandemic the sectoral split is largely unchanged. In broad terms 88% of employees worked in Services with 7% in Industry and 5% in Construction. Only Admin, Construction and Hospitality have seen their proportion reduce. Retail and Wholesale has seen both its proportion of employment and the absolute numbers increase over the past year (+15% YoY) due to an increase in online activity. The pre-pandemic sectoral split is reflected in the 2018 enterprise profile of Dublin, which is the latest data available. This shows that almost a third of all enterprises nationally are located in the region, a proportion that rises to over a half when it comes to Information and Communications enterprises (ICT) and two thirds for Financial and Insurance Services. The largest sector as measured by enterprise numbers is Professional Services, followed by Retail, Construction and logistics. 91% of enterprises in Dublin have between 0 and 10 employees with construction, logistics, ICT, real estate, professional services and Arts, Entertainment and Recreation showing average numbers per enterprise in that range on an aggregate basis.

Guinness Enterprise Centre has just completed a large extension making it the largest Enterprise Incubation Hub in the country.

Local Enterprise Office objectives for the Dublin Region to 2024

A key focus will be to maximise opportunities for job creation and retention, attained through:

1. Creating and raising local enterprise awareness and developing an enterprise culture and community-based enterprise activity
2. Providing a single/ first point of contact service to the business community – providing business advice, direction and signposting, business counselling and mentoring
3. Providing support to private sector and community initiatives to secure the establishment and/or expansion of commercially viable micro-enterprise projects
4. Providing comprehensive pre- and post-start-up support to new and expanding micro enterprises
5. Influencing the allocation of resources for micro-enterprise from EU, private and public funding sources
6. Promoting the general economic development of Dublin Region

The four Local Enterprise Offices Dublin City, Dún Laoghaire Rathdown, Fingal and South Dublin are members of the Regional Enterprise Plan Steering Committee for the Dublin Region and looks forward to working closely with our partners on the implementation of this Plan and continuing the strong spirit of collaboration and collective effort that is essential to delivering on our ambition for the Dublin Region.



5

Complementary Strategies and Initiatives



5.1 Fáilte Ireland: Dublin Region Focus to 2024

As the National Tourism Development Authority, Fáilte Ireland's role is to support the long-term sustainable growth in the economic, social, cultural and environmental contribution of tourism to Ireland. In addition to helping to develop destinations, Fáilte Ireland also provides consumer and buyer insights, mentoring, business supports and training programmes and buyer platforms to help tourism businesses innovate and grow.

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, Fáilte Ireland's mission over the next three years is to support the survival and drive the recovery of the sector in order to maximise the sustainable economic, environmental, cultural and social contribution of tourism to Ireland. It is also Fáilte Ireland's objective to spread the benefits of tourism more evenly around the country.

Fáilte Ireland is currently preparing a suite of four Regional Tourism Strategies (one for each of the four Regional Tourism Brands), which will be published in 2022.

Through these regional brand development initiatives, Fáilte Ireland has worked closely with a wide range of industry and stakeholder partners towards the sustainable development of tourism in the Dublin Region.

Since March 2020, with the onset of COVID-19, Fáilte Ireland has delivered significant business supports, by way of direct grant-aid, mentoring and training. Destination Recovery Task Forces were established to provide targeted supports to tourism businesses.

At the same time, Fáilte Ireland has remained focused on the medium-to-long term strategic initiatives that are necessary to facilitate the future sustainable recovery and development of tourism in the region.

For example, the ongoing implementation of the Destination and Experience Development Plan for the Docklands area and the orientation programme, which includes The Coastal Trail signage project in 11 locations along the coast and the industry support to activate it. These are aimed at unlocking the tourism potential of Dublin through a range of targeted strategic initiatives.

These plans are aimed at unlocking the tourism potential of the region through a range of targeted strategic initiatives.



Fáilte Ireland objectives for the Dublin Region to 2024

The overall tourism objective for Dublin is drive economic recovery and sustainable growth by creating awareness of the breadth of the offering in our capital city to motivate high yield segments to stay longer and spend more. A core focus will be on the uniqueness of our brand proposition as a vibrant city centre nestled between a beautiful bay and the Dublin mountains. This proposition will be substantiated with exciting saleable visitor experiences that appeal to our target audiences, both domestically and internationally. We will continue to work with colleagues in Tourism Ireland to ensure its market-based teams are aware of all that's new in Dublin to inform their international marketing activity as well.

Priority areas of focus for Fáilte Ireland over the coming three years in Dublin include:

- Work with a range of industry and stakeholder partners to prepare and implement new Destination and Experience Development Plans for the both the city and the mountains. These plans will be agreed by all stakeholders and will outline agreed shared development priorities to maximise the appeal of the offering to core target markets, creating best in class experiences; and by extension, help to increase visitor dwell time and spend.
 - › The focus of the city plan will be on bringing to life the unique character of the city, that authentic “Dublin” experience, with an emphasis on our urban villages
 - › For the Dublin mountains, the aim will be to optimise the Dublin outdoors experience in a sustainable way to maximising the opportunities for visitors to explore and experience the great outdoors
- Work with local authorities, tourism businesses and industry partners to fully realise the potential of our coastal offering, through the full activation of The Coastal Trail
- Liaise with local authorities and other state bodies including Waterways Ireland, the OPW and Dublin Port in optimising the benefit of state assets and attractions for tourism, which can then be leveraged by tourism businesses to create new jobs.
- Reimagine Dublin as a city break for the domestic market, with a particular focus on Northern Ireland, raising awareness of Dublin as a visitor destination and of the range of things for visitors to see and do.
- Partner with DAA and the NTA on the Dublin orientation programme to make it as easy of possible for visitors to navigate the city, from the moment they arrive in the country.
- Continue to strengthen and grow the business tourism offering of the city, positioning Dublin as a leader internationally (Fáilte Ireland has a leads pipeline out to 2032 worth €1bn and based on historic regional market shares, circa 80% of this if converted, will most likely go to Dublin).
- Continue to develop and enhance the tourism offering by delivering the capital investment roadmap of new visitor attractions and experiences
- Continue to grow the Winter in Dublin offering, first brought to market in 2021, which is a city-wide collaborative programme to create compelling reasons to visit Dublin in the shoulder season
- Collaborate with both public and private partners across the city and county to develop, leverage and consistently promote “Destination Dublin” to position the breadth of the offering across the whole region to drive awareness, consideration and visitation of core target markets.
- Launch the new VisitDublin.com website to continue the transformation of our consumer digital ecosystem, ensuring that the visitor is provided with an optimal digital performance, easy to use and navigate across all devices, providing visitors with the right content, at the right time.
- Aid the digital transformation of the tourism industry in the region through a ‘Digital that Delivers’ initiative, aimed at providing improved online presence and bookability for tourism businesses, enhancing their connected distribution and improving their digital skills.
- Work with local authorities to deliver Fáilte Ireland funded Destination Towns, Urban Animation and Outdoor Dining Enhancement schemes to improve the public realm for the visitor and resident alike.
- Continue to provide a range of business supports focused on meeting the needs of tourism businesses in Dublin in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic over the next three years.
- Help tourism providers to secure new business by introducing them to new markets and buyers and helping them to secure incremental sales. In particular, helping them to hone their saleable experiences to ensure they are picked up by domestic and international tour operators.
- Develop and execute a sustained strategy for Tourism Skills and Careers to both attract and retain staff within the tourism industry – the absence of staff represents an existential crisis as businesses capacity to trade is being restricted.

As a member of the Regional Enterprise Plan Steering Committee for the Dublin Region Fáilte Ireland looks forward to continuing the strong spirit of collaboration and collective effort that is essential to delivering on our ambition for the Dublin Region.





5.2 Regional Skills Forum: Focus to 2024

The National Skills Strategy to 2025, provides a framework for skills development that drives Ireland's growth both economically and societally. One of the key elements of the Strategy was the development of a National Skills Council (NSC) and 9 Regional Skills Fora (RSF). The Fora structure fosters engagement and collaboration between relevant Government Departments and agencies, the education (Further and Higher) and training system, and enterprise.

The RSF seek to bring people together at local and regional level, to identify, interrogate and validate skills needs, and to ensure that employers and enterprise are linked with the appropriate resources across the education and training system. The RSF provide an opportunity for employers and the education and training system to work together to meet the emerging skills needs of their regions. The RSF work to ensure the availability of skills and talent to realise the region's economic potential and address upskilling requirements.

The Regional Skills Forum leads a number of key activities in each region:

- acting at local and regional level, to drive forward the National Skills Strategy;
- assisting local enterprises identify skills needs to ensure that the region has the effective use of skills to support economic and social prosperity;
- linking (once skills needs have been identified) companies with regional education and training providers best suited to responding to identified skills need; and
- assisting with actions in the Regional Enterprise Plan where linkages to Education and Training Providers are required.

The core focus of Dublin Regional Skills Forum (DRSF) in fostering better collaboration between enterprise and education while meeting skills needs for the region ensures clear responses that deliver interventions to:

- mitigate impacts from COVID-19 and Brexit;
- support SMEs in particular to develop leadership/ management skills, operational innovation and productivity capabilities for growth; and
- address skillsets overall through specific provisions for Digitalisation/ Automation/ Green/Sustainability/Future World of Work.

DRSF will continue to work with sector bodies and employers that represents the wide landscape of Dublin including Hospitality / Retail / Construction / Transport Logistics / Financial Services / ICT, while building awareness and connections in addressing skills needs for the region.

Collaboration of key stakeholders within DRSF, through projects such as Human Capital Initiative, Springboard, Apprenticeship/Traineeships, Explore/DigiEco, inclusive accessible pathways from Further Education to Higher Education all led out by our Dublin providers, in meeting the challenges and opportunities of the 4th Industrial Revolution while responding to changes in both skills requirements and technology. Key to achieving this enabled through:

- building wider awareness and connections collectively from all partners within DRSF of the services and supports that exists.
- assessment and articulation based on engagement of sectors groups and enterprise of the actual skills and talent needs within the region to inform provisions as needs arise.
- showcase the outcomes of skills development solutions for enterprise while demonstrating the value and potential of such engagement with DRSF partners.
- encourage business and those in employment to engage in upskilling/reskilling development throughout their career life cycle.

Skills development has been identified as a key 'enabler' through the Regional Enterprise Plan stakeholder consultations that took place in the Dublin Region in the preparation of the Dublin Regional Enterprise Plan to 2024, and as such the ongoing work of the DRSF will underpin all of the agreed Strategic Objectives in the Plan.

In addition, the DRSF will be an active partner in the delivery of the actions in Strategic Objective 5 in the REP, that aims to ensure the availability of skills and talent to realise Dublin's future economic potential.





5.3 Regional Assemblies

The Eastern and Midlands regional Assembly (EMRA) covers nine counties containing twelve Local Authorities namely – Longford, Westmeath, Offaly, Laois, Louth, Meath, Kildare, Wicklow, Fingal, South Dublin and Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Councils and Dublin City Council.

Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy

One of the principal functions of the Assembly is the delivery of a Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES), which sets out the strategic regional development framework for the region. The primary aim of the RSES is to implement Project Ireland 2040, the National Planning Framework (NPF), at the regional tier of Government and to support NPF policy for achieving balanced regional development.

The Region's priorities for investment are identified in the RSES and Metropolitan Area Strategic Plans (MASPs) and set a 12-year strategic planning and economic development framework for future economic, spatial, and social development for the region in line with vision and objectives for national change in the NPF and the National Development Plan (NDP).

The Regional Assembly's RSES also aims to develop a sustainable, competitive, inclusive and resilient regional economy. Key to delivering this vision is ensuring the region develops a strong and diverse economic base and with immediate challenges such as COVID-19, Brexit, Just Transition and potential vulnerabilities for Ireland's enterprise base.

Alignment of the economic principles of the RSES and Regional Enterprise Plan (REP) is critical to underpin the achievement of national strategic outcomes at the regional and local level and give regional support for the implementation of actions identified through the REP. This is also of key relevance for EU cohesion funding in Ireland for the period 2021-2027 and the development of priorities under the ERDF 2021-2027 Programme. The Regional Assembly has an enhanced role in the management of this programme which will have a focus on smart cities and a smart region, lower carbon emissions, climate resilience and urban regeneration, themes that support priorities and actions under the REP.

The Eastern and Midlands regional Assembly RSES can be found here: [EMRA Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy](#)



5.4 Local Authorities – Local Economic and Community Plans

Local Authorities are the key agents of government responsible for local and community development at local level. The Local Government Reform Act 2014 strengthened the role of Local Authorities towards economic, social and community development.

The Local Economic and Community Plans (LECPs), as provided for in the Local Government Reform Act 2014, set out, for a six-year period, the objectives and actions needed to promote and support the economic development and the local and community development of the relevant local authority area, both by itself directly and in partnership with other economic and community development stakeholders.

The Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD) has statutory responsibility for the LECPs overall and additional responsibility for the Local Community Development Committees who are charged with the development and the delivery of the Community elements of the LECP. The Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government have statutory responsibility for the Economic elements of the LECP. The local authorities are responsible for the development and implementation of the economic elements of the LECP through the relevant Strategic Policy Committee.

The purpose of the community elements of the LECP is to promote local and community development and to ensure the coordination of relevant public funded local and community development actions in a way that reduces duplication, targets available resources where they are most needed and maximises benefits for communities. The focus of the community elements of the LECP should be on the social and economic issues that have relevance and can be addressed at a community level.

The development of the economic elements of the LECP is part of the wider role of economic development in local government. Revised guidelines on the development of LECPs to assist with the development of local area plans were published in November 2021.

As the framework for the economic and community development of the local authority area, the LECP is also the primary mechanism at local level to bring forward relevant actions arising from national and regional strategies and policies that have a local remit.



Appendices



Appendix 1: Membership of the Regional Steering Committee

Chair Regional Enterprise Plan:
Susan Spence, Co-founder, SoftCo
Programme Manager:
Caroline Power
Membership of the Committee:
South Dublin Co. Council
Fingal Co. Council
Dun Laoghaire Rathdown Co Council
Dublin City Council
IDA Ireland
Enterprise Ireland
Dublin Regional Skills Forum
South Dublin Co. Council LEO
Fingal Co. Council LEO
Dun Laoghaire Rathdown Co. Council LEO
Dublin City Council LEO
Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly
South Dublin Chamber
Fingal Chamber
Dublin Chamber
Dublin City University (DCU)
Dublin Institute of Technology (DIT)
University College Dublin (UCD)
Trinity College Dublin (TCD)
Technological University Dublin (TUD)
Tourism Ireland
Fáilte Ireland
InterTradelreland
Commissioner for Start-ups
Smart City Implementation Team
Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI)
Open Doors Initiative
Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment
Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection



Appendix 2: Dublin Regional Statistical Snapshot

Constituent counties	Dublin			
Dublin Population	1,347,359 ¹			
Persons aged 15 years and over in Employment	747,900 ²			
ILO Participation Rate	68.2% ³			
ILO Unemployment Rate	6.2% ⁴			
Persons aged 15 years and over in Employment (Male)	388,600 ⁵			
Persons aged 15 years and over in Employment (Female)	359,300 ⁶			
Persons aged 15 years and over in Employment from Q1 2015 ⁷ – Q3 2021	Q1 2015	Q3 2021		
	600,100	747,900		
Actual Increase in Employment between from Q1 2015 – Q3 2021	24.6%			
Employment Growth Rate between Q1 2015 – Q3 2021	147,800			
Persons on Live Register in Dublin at 01/12/2021	102,269 ⁸			
Persons in receipt of the Pandemic Unemployment Payment at 07/12/2021 in Dublin	20,469 ⁹			
Unemployment blackspots ¹⁰	12 ¹¹			
Irish-owned Companies – Total Employment in Dublin, 2015-2020 ¹²		2015	2020	Change between 2015-2020
	Jobs:	61,437	73,492	+12,055
Foreign-owned Companies – Total Employment in Dublin, 2015-2020 ¹³		2015	2020	Change between 2015-2020
	Jobs:	81,808	116,565	+34,757

1. 2016 CSO Census

2. Q3 CSO Labour Force Survey (Dublin Region)

3. Q3 CSO Labour Force Survey (Dublin Region)

4. Q3 CSO Labour Force Survey (Dublin Region)

5. Q3 CSO Labour Force Survey (Dublin Region)

6. Q3 CSO Labour Force Survey (Dublin Region)

7. Launch of the Regional Action Plan for Jobs

8. CSO Live Register

9. <https://www.gov.ie>

10. Unemployment Blackspots are defined as Electoral Districts with at least 200 people in the labour force and an unemployment rate of 27% or higher

11. Unemployment blackspots in the Region: Dublin City (7), South Dublin (4) & Fingal (1)

12. Annual Employment Survey 2020

13. Annual Employment Survey 2020



Appendix 3: Other State Agencies and Bodies Supporting Enterprise Development

Bord Bia

Bord Bia, the Irish Food Board, is responsible for the development of new markets and the promotion of Irish food, drink and horticulture, reporting to the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine. The agency's mandate covers trade development, promotion, quality programmes, information provision and marketing support especially for export markets. Bord Bia operates in thirteen overseas locations. Its Origin Green programme is the only sustainability programme in the world that operates on a national scale, uniting government, the private sector and food producers.

Bord Iascaigh Mhara (BIM)

BIM is the state agency with responsibility for developing the Irish sea-fishing and aquaculture industries. BIM's mission is to lead the sustainable development of a competitive, market-led, innovative and quality-driven Irish seafood industry, maximising the returns to industry stakeholders and the socio-economic contribution to communities in coastal regions in particular. BIM is focused on expanding the volume, quality and value of output from the Irish seafood industry. It provides a range of advisory, financial, technical and training services to all sectors of the Irish seafood industry. BIM's Strategy 2013-2017 is an action plan that aims to deliver 1,200 jobs and €1bn seafood sales by building scale and enhancing competitiveness in the Irish seafood sector.

InterTradelreland

InterTradelreland's mission is to support businesses, through innovation and trade initiatives, to take advantage of North/South co-operative opportunities to improve capability and drive competitiveness, jobs and growth. InterTradelreland helps small businesses through a strong mix of funding support, business intelligence and meaningful contacts. It supports companies not only with funding, but also with specialist expertise and introductions.

Skillnet Ireland

Skillnet Ireland was established in 1999 and is funded from the National Training Fund through the Department of Education and Skills. The primary objective of Skillnet Ireland is to increase participation in enterprise training by companies. Skillnet Ireland fosters an enterprise led approach to workforce development. The process of determining training needs and coordinating the delivery of training, is primarily owned by the enterprise groups engaged with Skillnet Ireland. Skillnet Ireland operates under a joint investment model, part-funded by matching contributions from participating businesses in our learning networks. Encouraging enterprise to lead the process in this way helps ensure that programmes delivered through Skillnet Ireland are highly relevant to the needs of industry. This approach also enables cohesive enterprise networking and the flexibility to respond to ever-changing skills demands through both formal and informal learning. Through 65 plus Skillnet Learning Networks, Skillnet Ireland allocates funding to groups of companies in the same industry sector (or region) and with similar training needs, so they can deliver subsidised training for their teams. Skillnet Ireland also plays a key role in supporting and enabling Skillnet funded groups to reach their full potential.



Science Foundation Ireland (SFI)

Science Foundation Ireland is the national foundation for investment in scientific and engineering research, operating under the auspices of DBEI. SFI invests in academic researchers and research teams who are most likely to generate new knowledge, leading edge technologies and competitive enterprises in the fields of science, technology, engineering and maths. SFI has supported the establishment of 17 National Research Centres, aligned with the research priority areas set out in Ireland's research prioritisation exercise (which is currently being refreshed). SFI plays a key role in developing international relationships in the research and innovation domain. It is instrumental in raising Ireland's profile and visibility as a location of research excellence in international markets, thus strengthening Ireland's attractiveness for overseas investment.

Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI)

The purpose of the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) is to play a leading role in transforming Ireland into a society based on sustainable energy structures, technologies and practices. SEAI provides a range of programmes and services to homes, businesses, schools and communities. It is a key actor in providing research and advice to Government on sustainable energy policy, including renewables and energy efficiency.

Waterways Ireland

Waterways Ireland is one of six North-South Implementation Bodies established under the British-Irish Agreement in 1999. It has responsibility for the management, maintenance, development, promotion and restoration of inland navigable waterways, principally for recreational purposes. The waterways under the remit of the Body are the Shannon-erne Waterway, the Shannon, the Erne Navigation, the Barrow Navigation, the Grand Canal, the Lower Bann, and the Royal Canal.

Enterprise Europe Network (EEN)

The Enterprise Europe Network helps businesses innovate and grow on an international scale. It is the world's largest support network for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) with international ambitions. The Network is active in more than 60 countries worldwide. It brings together 3,000 experts from more than 600-member organisations – all renowned for their excellence in business support. The Enterprise Europe Network at Dublin Chamber offers support and advice to Leinster SMEs, helping them to make the most of business opportunities beyond Irish and European Union borders. Dublin Chamber's services include a free international partner sourcing service, advice on new markets, advice on access to finance and funding, advice on EU legislation, and networking opportunities with international trade missions.



Appendix 4: Our Rural Future – Rural Development Policy 2021–2025

Introduction

Our Rural Future-Rural Development Policy 2021-2025 is the most ambitious and transformational policy for rural development in Ireland for decades.

The vision of the policy is for a thriving rural Ireland which is integral to our national economic, social, cultural and environmental wellbeing and development, which is built on the interdependence of urban and rural areas, and which recognises the centrality of people, the importance of vibrant and lived-in rural places, and the potential to create quality jobs and sustain our shared environment.

The policy contains more than 150 commitments for delivery across the whole-of-Government for both short-term recovery and longer-term development. It has a five-year timeframe, with updates on delivery provided by a series of Progress Reports. Annual work programmes allow for the review and revision of priorities contained in the measures for delivery.

Policy Objectives

The policy aims to bring about improved opportunities and a better quality of life for people who live and work in rural areas, through balanced regional development, benefitting individuals, families, communities and businesses.

We want to see more people living and working in rural Ireland, rural towns as vibrant hubs for commercial and social activity, reduced regional income disparities, improved access to public services such as transport links, rural Ireland benefitting from the transition to a more sustainable future and rural communities - especially young people – having an active role in shaping their future.

Funding streams

The level of activity across Government in recent months highlights delivery of the Policy's ambition. The Government's commitment to rural Ireland is also evidenced in the unprecedented capital investment of €850m provided under the revised *National Development Plan* for rural development projects to 2025, across a range of areas such as remote working facilities, rural regeneration projects and outdoor amenities. This includes huge levels of support for important projects under the Department of Rural and Community Development's (DRCD) Rural Development Investment Programme.

DRCD supports include:

- Revitalisation of rural town centres through the €1bn Rural Regeneration and Development Fund.
- Investment of €220m through the LEADER Programme.
- Provision of funding for other programmes such as the Small-Scale Rural Projects (CLÁR), Town and Village Renewal, Local Improvement Scheme for non-public roads, Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme and Connected Hubs Fund.



Appendix 5: Regional Enterprise Development Funding

Regional Enterprise Development Fund and Regional Enterprise Transition Scheme

The Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment’s Regional Enterprise Development Fund (REDF) and Regional Enterprise Transition Scheme (RETS) supports the development and implementation of collaborative and innovative projects that can enable and sustain enterprise and employment growth in the regions. Under the RETS and the three calls of the REDF to date, Dublin has secured €12.4m in funding for 7 enterprise projects.

Projects approved for Dublin Region

Projects approved award	Project description
BPO Cluster Ireland CLG	Develop a BPO cluster to support scaling and employment growth.
Dublin Enterprise and Tech Centre	Guinness Enterprise Centre – Co Working supports and office space for start-ups
Ghala DAC	Innovation Centre / Co-working hub at Grand Canal Dock
Social and Local Enterprise Alliance DAC	Enterprise space for artisan start-ups.
Innovate Dublin Communities CLG	Co-Working spaces and Curation of Social Innovation in the Liberties
St. Paul's Area Development Enterprise CLG	Innovative Food Kitchen Incubator
LINC Collaboratory Designated Activity Company	A learning and innovation centre focussing on Cyber Security, Internet of Things Technology and Artificial Intelligence.
Total Dublin REDF and RETS Funding	€12,436,238



Appendix 6: Methodology

The process to develop these Regional Enterprise Plans involved the following steps:

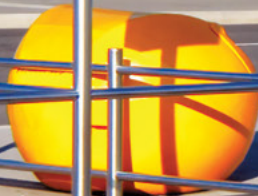
January 2021	A round of initial consultations with key stakeholders was undertaken by the Department including the Chairpersons of the Regional Steering Committees, Agency representatives, Programme Managers, and other key organisations represented on the Regional Steering Committees. The bilateral discussions focused on what worked/didn't work well over the period of the outgoing Regional Enterprise Plans.
February-March 2021	In February 2021 the Tánaiste wrote to the Chairpersons of the Regional Steering Committees formally setting out the Department's intention to develop new Plans to 2024.
February-May 2021	The Tánaiste and Ministers of State formally launched the commencement of the process to develop Regional Enterprise Plans to 2024 with meetings of the nine Regional Steering Committees in virtual sessions around the country. Each Committee established a Project Delivery Team for the process, led by the Steering Committee chairperson.
March-May 2021	Each of the Project Delivery Teams met to review the outgoing Regional Plans and considered future thematic areas of focus and agreed an approach for a formal stakeholder consultation with the wider Steering Committee members and other relevant stakeholders.
May-August 2021	An online facilitated Stakeholder Consultation event was held in eight of the nine regions; with a series of bilateral stakeholder engagements and focus group discussions undertaken in the South-East Region. Participants considered topics including: enterprise resilience, smart specialisation, placemaking, transition-climate, digitalisation.
July-October 2021	The Project Delivery Teams re-grouped to consider the consultation outcomes and further develop emerging themes into Strategic Objectives and to identify suitable actions for delivery in the period to 2024
November-December 2021	The Draft Final Regional Enterprise Plans were signed off by the Project Delivery Teams and Steering Committees.
February 2022	Memo for Government considered by Cabinet and noted the Department's intention to publish the nine Regional Enterprise Plans.





Críochfort
Terminal 2

doo



An Roinn Fiontar, Trádála agus Fostaíochta

Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment

23 Sráid Chill Dara, Baile Átha Cliath 2, D02 TD30

23 Kildare Street, Dublin 2, D02 TD30

T +353 (0)1 631 2121, 0818 302 121

www.enterprise.gov.ie

www.gov.ie

info@enterprise.gov.ie

An initiative of the Department of
Enterprise, Trade and Employment
gov.ie



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland