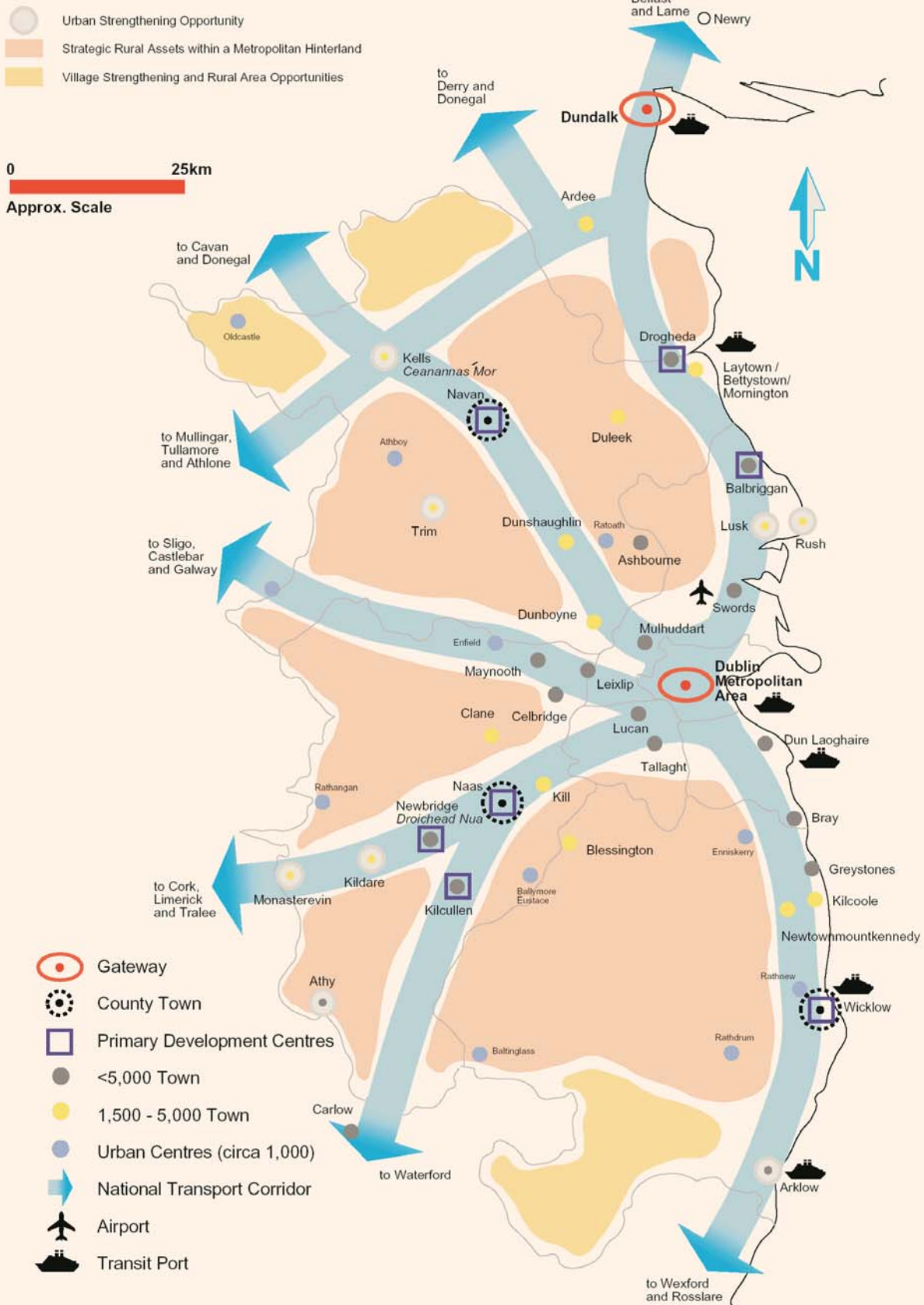


CHAPTER 8

MAKING DUBLIN THE HEART OF THE REGION

NATIONAL SPATIAL STRATEGY

FIG 15



MAKING DUBLIN THE HEART OF THE CITY REGION

As the capital city, it is vital that Dublin continues to grow and operate on an international scale while at the same time providing for the needs of its residents, workers and visitors alike. Dublin must develop as a dynamic city region with sufficient critical mass in order to compete at an international level and fulfil its role as the national gateway and key economic driver of growth for the Greater Dublin Region and the country as a whole.

The National Development Plan recognises the unique role of the capital as a national gateway and envisages the implementation of Transport 21 and the consolidation of the Greater Dublin Area through integration of transport and land use. The National Spatial Strategy endorses consolidation, investment in public transport, and the need to support the national roles of Dublin Airport and Dublin Port. A summary of the provisions of national and regional guidance can be found in Appendix 2.

8.1 ACHIEVEMENTS

The city is benefiting from many improvements including: the new national conference centre, new bridges across the River Liffey; and the redevelopment of both Croke Park and Lansdowne Road stadiums. The city region's transport infrastructure is improving with the completion of the port tunnel and two Luas light rail lines, the ongoing four tracking of the Kildare rail route and the construction of a new terminal at Dublin Airport.

Environmental quality gains importance as the city consolidates and the region develops. In this regard, there have been many achievements; Dublin is the only capital city in the European Union to have a blue flag beach, Father Collins Park in the North Fringe is Ireland's first wholly sustainable park, many flood protection works have been completed under the Dublin Flooding Initiative; and detailed planning for the Sutton to Sandycove (S2S) project has been undertaken.

8.2 CHALLENGES

In a global economy, city-regions compete internationally as attractive places for investment and development. As the economic driver of the national economy, and the core of the city-region, becoming more internationally competitive is a key challenge for the city.

Quality of life is now a key determinant of a city's success, demanded not only by citizens but also necessary to attract and hold on to a talented workforce. Benchmarking is now a standard approach to profiling a city and a high rating in key areas can enhance city status and have a positive impact on investment and confidence. It is critical that cities like Dublin have the ability to analyze their strengths and weakness and develop city strategies based on a strong vision.

Collaboration, the establishment of networks and clustering of economic sectors are important elements in developing the city's role at regional, national and international levels. City networks facilitate the exchange of information and knowledge, enable best practice to be established and encourage partnership in projects.

There is need at a regional level to embrace a set of wider challenges such as: green networks; developing settlement and transport policy to incorporate economic strategies; establishing the role of an effective core at the heart of a polycentric city region; developing pro-active branding; and seeking a more dynamic partnership from key institutions/stakeholders in promoting the region and developing its potential.

Environmental issues do not limit themselves to the boundary of the city. The Dublin city region must jointly develop and pursue policies to address climate change and sustainability in order to safeguard the regions environment for future generations.

8.3 THE STRATEGIC APPROACH (See Fig. 15)

Making Dublin the heart of the city region will be achieved through the strategy of:

- acknowledging the importance of having a strong voice for Dublin and developing collaborative networks at international, national and regional levels to promote the city
- branding and developing Dublin as a polycentric city region that can compete and collaborate with city regions internationally
- consolidating the metropolitan area to create a compact city, reinforce the primacy of the city centre and optimise the use of urban land and infrastructure
- seeking opportunities to develop the knowledge and creative economy and supporting a network of thriving economic clusters and corridors
- supporting the realisation of a strategic green network and
- seeking to prioritise regional infrastructural investment

8.4 POLICIES AND OBJECTIVES

8.4.1 Co-operation at National and International Levels

The Dublin City Council Office of International Relations and Research manages relations with other cities and develops networks and projects to enhance the international position and view of Dublin.

Dublin’s strengths should be exploited by collaborating with the Industrial Development Authority in order to promote foreign investment and export potential. The National Spatial Strategy recognizes the importance of the Dublin-Belfast economic corridor. Increasing interaction and co-operation between Dublin and Belfast will enhance competitiveness and has potential benefits for the whole of the island of Ireland.

It is the policy of Dublin City Council:

HR1 To build on and promote the Dublin-Belfast economic corridor in order to maximize the advantages of north-south links and the development of an all island economy

HR2 To collaborate with other agencies at the regional and national levels to promote foreign investment and export potential which capitalises on the city regions dynamic nature, critical mass and economies of scale

8.4.2 Branding the City-Region

There is a need to develop pro-active branding and to seek a more dynamic partnership from key institutions/stakeholders in promoting the region and developing its potential. The Economic Development Action Plan for the Dublin City Region (2009) contains an objective to develop the Dublin brand to raise Dublin’s international profile based on Dublin’s distinct identity, its unique achievements and competitive advantage as an international city region.

It is the policy of Dublin City Council:

HR3 To support the formation of a consensus to foster influence for Dublin and to brand and promote the Dublin region internationally

It is an objective of Dublin City Council:

HRO1 To develop a brand identity for Dublin based on the city's distinctive identity, unique achievements and competitive advantage as international city region

HRO2 To seek to promote the visual identity of the city through the display of flags, banners and crests unique to the city, the city character areas and gateways, as well as the city-region

8.4.3 Regional Co-ordination for Sustainable Spatial Development

Dublin City Council co-operates with adjacent authorities and the regional authority to ensure that a coordinated approach is taken to the planning of the Dublin region. In accordance with the core strategy, there is a need to strengthen the gateway role of the city and to consolidate and increase overall densities of development to create a sustainable compact city which will facilitate the provision of a high quality integrated public transport system and avoid urban sprawl.

It is the policy of Dublin City Council:

HR4 To collaborate with adjacent authorities and the regional authority to ensure that a coordinated approach is taken to the planning of the Dublin region and to have regard to the Regional Planning Guidelines for the Greater Dublin Area (2010-2022) and the National Spatial Strategy (2002-2020)

8.4.4 Reinforcing the Primacy of the City

Providing a stronger voice for Dublin is necessary to protect and reinforce the primacy of the city and support an effective core at the heart of the city region. To promote a sustainable future, it is important to consolidate the metropolitan core in order to optimise the value of existing and proposed infrastructural investment. (See Fig. 2).

Dublin City has a dynamic relationship with a number of strong outer or polycentric centres for example Swords, Tallaght and Sandyford. The role of the city centre as the leading mixed-use retail and employment destination which is located at the heart of the most connect urban centre in the country needs to be supported.

It is the policy of Dublin City Council:

HR5 To promote opportunities for Dublin, protect and reinforce the primacy of the city and support the consolidation of an effective core at the heart of the city region

8.4.5 Regional Economic Development

Dublin is Ireland's only city of international scale and it is located at the core of the Greater Dublin Region which is the 'power house' of the Irish economy. As the capital, Dublin will continue to occupy a unique position in the economic, social and cultural life of the country. Developing and strengthening the City Region contributes to the overall strength of the country in a competitive global economy.

The Economic Development Action Plan for the Dublin City Region (2009) identifies the benefits that economies of scale can generate for the city, region and country. The Dublin city region, with its critical mass, needs to continue to act as the engine of Ireland's economy with a network of thriving polycentric clusters and the following transboundary economic corridors: (1) the Southern Economic Corridor (including the Trinity-UCD Innovation

Alliance); (2) the Metro North Economic Corridor; and (3) the Naas Road/Rail Economic Corridor. (See Fig. 2).

It is the policy of Dublin City Council:

HR6 To support the role of the city as the primary mixed use employment and retail destination which is also well connected by public transport

HR7 To support the network of economic clusters and transboundary economic corridors in the polycentric city region as identified in the Economic Development Action Plan for the Dublin City Region

8.4.6 Regional Co-operation for Environmental Sustainability

The regional context is important for Dublin's Climate Change Strategy, as many of the issues for sustainable energy and climate change such as transport and energy infrastructure, drainage and wastewater, supply of drinking water and flood protection, are transboundary and relate to all authorities in the region. In this context, the Local Authorities in the Dublin City Region are developing a Dublin Region Sustainable Energy Action Plan. Dublin City Council is committed to on-going collaboration with adjoining authorities to mitigate against climate change.

It is the policy of Dublin City Council:

HR8 To work in conjunction and close co-operation with the adjoining local authorities in the Dublin Region, to reduce 'greenhouse gas' emissions and mitigate against climate change in a co-ordinated manner on a regional level, with particular regard to energy, planning, transport, waste management, and biodiversity

It is an objective of Dublin City Council:

HRO3 To co-operate with the adjoining local authorities in the Dublin Region to prepare and implement a Sustainable Energy Action Plan for the Dublin Region

8.4.7 Developing a Strategic Green Network

Key strategic green corridors within the City include the Royal and Grand Canals and major natural amenities such as the River Liffey and the Dublin Bay coastal route. Dublin City Council supports the implementation of the 'Towards A Liffey Valley Park' strategy document which is the first comprehensive strategy for the River Liffey and its adjacent lands and the provision of a framework for the realisation of a strategic green network across the region.

It is the policy of Dublin City Council:

HR9 To support the provision of a framework for the realisation of a strategic green network across the region

8.4.8 Providing Leadership in the City Region

The Creative Dublin Alliance is building a network of diverse urban leaders to help identify, discuss, recommend and distribute solutions in response to the challenges that Dublin faces as an internationally competitive city region. Excellent Third and Fourth level education and research and development will be critical to the success of the Dublin city region given the challenges of the knowledge and creative economy. In this context, it is important to promote and facilitate investment in education, research and development.

It is the policy of Dublin City Council:

HR10 To support initiatives such as the Creative Dublin Alliance in order to drive the development of knowledge, innovation and creativity in the city

HR11 To promote strong city governance to represent and promote the Dublin City Region

8.4.9 Regional Infrastructure

Improvements to existing public transport infrastructure and water services are essential for improving quality of life and supporting the increases in density and critical mass necessary to create a sustainable compact city which optimises the use of urban land.

Proposed improvements to public transport infrastructure such as Metro North, Dart Underground and extending the Luas network will foster more sustainable development by supporting the consolidation process, supporting the transboundary economic corridors especially the metro north economic corridor, creating a more integrated transport network, and encouraging a modal shift from private to public transportation throughout the Dublin city region. It is important that Dublin retains an international port in the region, within sustainable transport distance of the national gateway.

Water supply and drainage for Dublin is provided on a regional basis. A new long term source of water supply and additional regional wastewater treatment capacity is necessary to meet demand that will be created by projected population growth in the Dublin City Region. Policies supporting the Metro Rail link between the City Centre and Dublin Airport and the provision of additional wastewater treatment capacity are included in Chapter 5 'Connecting and Sustaining the City's Infrastructure'.