

Economic Development and Employment

Planning and development policies are becoming more and more important for economic development, employment growth and prosperity.

With unprecedented public and private investment planned for Dublin, the city has the opportunity to become a world-class city, depending on the policies and approaches adopted and actions taken. The review of the Development Plan is therefore most timely.

There is an urgent need to make the most of public benefits arising from the unprecedented level of public investment in recent years. For example encouraging high densities and mixed uses that allow employment and housing to be located together will make best use of public transport infrastructure.

The need for planning to take economic issues into account and to be responsive to changing economic circumstances is essential for Dublin's future growth and prosperity.

Dublin A Global City

Dublin is the capital of one of the most globalised economies in the world and competes internationally to attract and retain highly mobile investment and key skilled workers. It is the engine of the national economy.

In order to maintain the City's economic position we need to address the challenges of global competitiveness. The economic role of the City Centre and other sustainable centres in the City needs to be promoted in the Development Plan.

Economic Growth

Economic growth in each year since the current City Development Plan was adopted has averaged 4.7%. However the rapid and dramatically changed economic environment in 2008, both domestically and internationally, highlights a challenge in reviewing a six year Development Plan. We need to look at policies that are able to respond to changing economic circumstances.

A Safe, Clean Green City

A 'clean, green and safe' urban environment is now seen to be part of our economic infrastructure and is important for promoting the city. A safe and attractive city is a major consideration for businesses when deciding where to locate.

Urban Regeneration

The challenges and opportunities of the regeneration of extensive areas of the city is another key issue both for economic growth and competitiveness, and social equity reasons. How we respond to the need for regeneration and the approach we take is of vital importance to the city.

The Knowledge & Creative Economy, including Enterprise

There is a continuing move towards the knowledge and creative

economy, where internationally traded business, creative and financial services will increasingly be the engine of economic growth. It is likely that these jobs will be concentrated in large urban centres, presenting a great opportunity for Dublin and an increasing national economic role.

Agglomeration Economies

The benefits resulting from having a high density of economic activities and people in an area are well recognised. There is a need to move towards more dense development if good value is to be obtained from the huge investment in public infrastructure and if the benefits of businesses specialisms locating in clusters are to be realised.

Broadband Telecommunications

The availability of advanced telecommunications services is an essential part of sustainable development in the City and is essential infrastructure in meeting the demands of global economics. To maintain Dublin's economic position, broadband telecommunications must be upgraded to next generation networks.



Retail

Retail in Dublin is facing significant local, regional and international challenges and opportunities. The Retail Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area (GDA) 2008-2016 reconfirms the role of Dublin City centre as the prime retail centre for the region. Retailing on the northside of the city centre is expected to greatly improve with some significant developments proposed. The challenge for the south inner city is to develop large floorplates on suitable sites without compromising the prestige and character of Grafton Street. The challenge for outer areas is to bring the retail offer up to contemporary requirements.



Tourism

Tourism is facing challenges and opportunities including competition from other cities internationally. There is a need to continually improve the city's attractions and the opening of the Convention Centre in 2010 will be a significant boost. Providing a broader range of hotel accommodation and spreading the benefits of tourism across the entire city are other important issues facing the City's tourism industry.



Economic development And Employment: The Big Picture Questions

- How do we ensure economic growth in the future will deliver an increased quality of life for people living and working in the city?
- How can the Development Plan enable Dublin retain its competitiveness in an increasingly global economy?
- How can planning policies be adaptable and agile in quickly responding to new challenges and opportunities, while promoting sufficient certainty of land use to encourage long-term investment?
- How can greater collaboration between the leaders of Dublin's Business, University and City Administration sectors be supported toward progressing a vision of Dublin's future growth?
- How can urban regeneration approaches be changed to facilitate transition of disadvantaged areas into sustainable neighbourhoods?
- How can Dublin's industrial lands be better used for clustering economic activity?
- How can the Development Plan promote a range of start-ups/ incubators in commercial schemes so that businesses can grow locally?
- How can the Development Plan better foster entrepreneurial activity?
- How can the Development Plan maximise economies specialising in different types of employment, e.g. green technology, financial services, digital media, creative industries and biotechnology?
- How can high-speed broadband be provided & promoted across the city?
- How can the Development Plan better distribute the benefits of strong tourism across the city?
- Can the City Centre develop into a world-class shopping destination?
- How can the retail experience in city suburban areas be more competitive and offer more choice for the consumer and contribute to sustainable centres which complement the city centre?
- How can the necessary movement of goods and services within Dublin City be balanced with the need for a competitive city?
- Is the quality of office accommodation in Dublin city adequate?

What do you think? Have we left out any of The Big Picture issues?

We want to hear your views...