

International, National & Regional Dimension

The current Development Plan sets out the framework for the growth of the city in line with the high-level policies of the National Development Plan, the National Spatial Strategy and the Regional Planning Guidelines for the Greater Dublin Area. In keeping with these plans, the current strategy for Dublin supports the consolidation of the city by making the best use of land, and integrating land-use and transport. The Plan seeks to meet the needs of the city, the wider region and the State as a whole. 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.

While the Regional Planning Guidelines support the National Spatial Strategy, the development surge which resulted from our recent long period of economic success has put pressure on infrastructure, created unsustainable commuting patterns and led to a wearing away in the quality of the natural environment in some areas.

In addition the built-up area of Dublin City has now extended to the entire City Boundary including north, west & south, and this trend is likely to continue e.g. at Naas Road. Therefore there is an increasing need for co-operation

between local authorities in the City Region. There is also a growing sense that Dublin should be more strongly promoted as a city region. A consolidating city region, with some two million people by 2020, is more likely to be able to compete and work with city regions outside Ireland for investment, jobs, tourism etc., provided the Dublin City Region is developed as a sustainable metropolitan area with quality of life as its core value.

International Dimension

At an international level Dublin operates in a globalised world economy where city regions play an increasingly important role. These city regions compete not only on economic grounds, but also across the environmental, social and cultural spectrum. Quality of life in Dublin is a key factor that makes the City attractive for foreign investment. In addition, international benchmarking is now a standard way to compare cities and it is critical that Dublin develops strong citywide strategies to maintain and build on our international status. We also need to build partnerships between other global city regions.

National Dimension

The National Spatial Strategy is a 20-year framework for balanced regional development across Ireland. The Strategy recognises the important role that Dublin plays in the economic life of the region and country. The Strategy recognises too that successful European capitals have a key role in promoting the interests of the country in an international arena.

The National Development Plan recognises the unique role of the capital as a national gateway and sees the implementation of Transport 21 as part of the sustainable consolidation of the City by integrating transport and land use. The National Spatial Strategy also supports quality consolidation and the need to develop the national roles of Dublin Airport and the Trans European Road Network, all of which are necessary parts of Dublin as our national hub.

Regional Dimension

The Regional Planning Guidelines for the Greater Dublin Area 2004 include a strong vision for Dublin as a major European centre, competing and collaborating as a city region internationally.

The Settlement Strategy in the Guidelines sets out a clear hierarchy with the metropolitan area as its core. The City forms the central part of this metropolitan area. The main vision for the metropolitan area is one of a compact, sustainable city, supported by a much enhanced public transport system and community infrastructure. Nevertheless, the recent economic boom has put pressure on this infrastructure, leading to unsustainable urban sprawl.

The Regional Dimension for Dublin tends to be focused on transport and population. Other cities have wider portfolios in relation to the economy, multi-centred specialisms, green infrastructure, city branding and cross sectoral alliances / governance.



International, National and Regional Dimension: The Big Picture Questions

- How can we further develop collaborative city networks (e.g. with our twin cities, such as San Jose) to facilitate information exchange and encourage partnership in projects?
- How can we build a consensus to brand and promote the Dublin City Region internationally?
- What can be done in the next Development Plan to support and develop a creative alliance of sectors in Dublin, including the educational and research sectors? For example, is there a need for an international school?
- How can the Development Plan achieve economies of scale to make sure it remains a major Global and European Centre, while still serving the needs of the city region and the country as a whole?
- How can we maintain Dublin as the national gateway for the country as a whole and internationally (through its airport, port and emerging Transport 21 Network)?
- What collaborative mechanisms can be put in place across the region to support environmentally sustainable programmes (water supply, wastewater management, transport and waste management)?
- What further arrangements should be put in place between statutory agencies to manage the structure and form of a consolidating Metropolitan area e.g. along the major transport radial routes?
- How can open spaces and green links in the Region be more strongly developed and managed? (such as river valley, canals, parks)
- What can be done to tackle the problem of unsustainable urban sprawl?

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

We want to hear your views...

