Dublin Regional Authority

Regional Newsletter – Jan 2006

DUBLIN
REGIONAL
AUTHORITY

ÚDARÁS
RÉIGIÚNDA
ÁTHA CLIATH

Cllr. Dermot Lacey

Dermot Lacey

Within this edition of Regional Newsletter, you have summary details of the presentations made by the various speakers.

Councillor Dermot Lacey,
Cathaoirleach

Introduction by An Cathaoirleach

Welcome to the Dublin Regional Newsletter.

My name is Dermot Lacey and I am the newly elected Cathaoirleach of the Dublin Regional Authority for the period June 2005 to June 2006.

The Dublin Region comprises the City of Dublin and the Counties of Fingal, South Dublin and Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown and has a population in excess of 1.1m. Dublin is also Ireland's Capital City-Region and International Gateway.

As a member of Dublin City Council for 12 years, a former Lord Mayor and a member of the Dublin Regional Authority, I hope I understand the issues affecting Dublin. Over the next years I will seek to highlight some of the challenges that need to be addressed. The major change, in my view, is the need for a fundamental reform, restructuring and remapping of the Local Government system itself, in so far as it impacts on Dublin.

To begin with, I would like to draw your attention to the economy of Dublin. The Dublin Regional Authority held a conference on the subject of Dublin's economy in May last, as a follow up to the publication and launch of the Agenda for Dublin document. The conference highlighted the defining characteristics of Dublin's regional economy and identified how public policy could and should assist its development in the context of sustaining Dublin's international competitiveness.

Mr. Damien Kiberd of Newstalk 106, was the Conference Chair and Facilitator and the line up of speakers was as follows:

- Ms. Mary Buckley, Manager of Regional Development and Property Division, IDA
- Ms. Gina Quinn, C.E.O., Dublin Chamber of Commerce
- Mr. Martin Cronin, C.E.O., Forfás
- Dr. Gráinne Collins, Employment Research Centre, TCD

For many Dublin is a wonderful place to live, to work, to play and to visit. Our cause is to make it a better place for all. Our task is both simple and immense. It is quite simply to "Stand up for Dublin".

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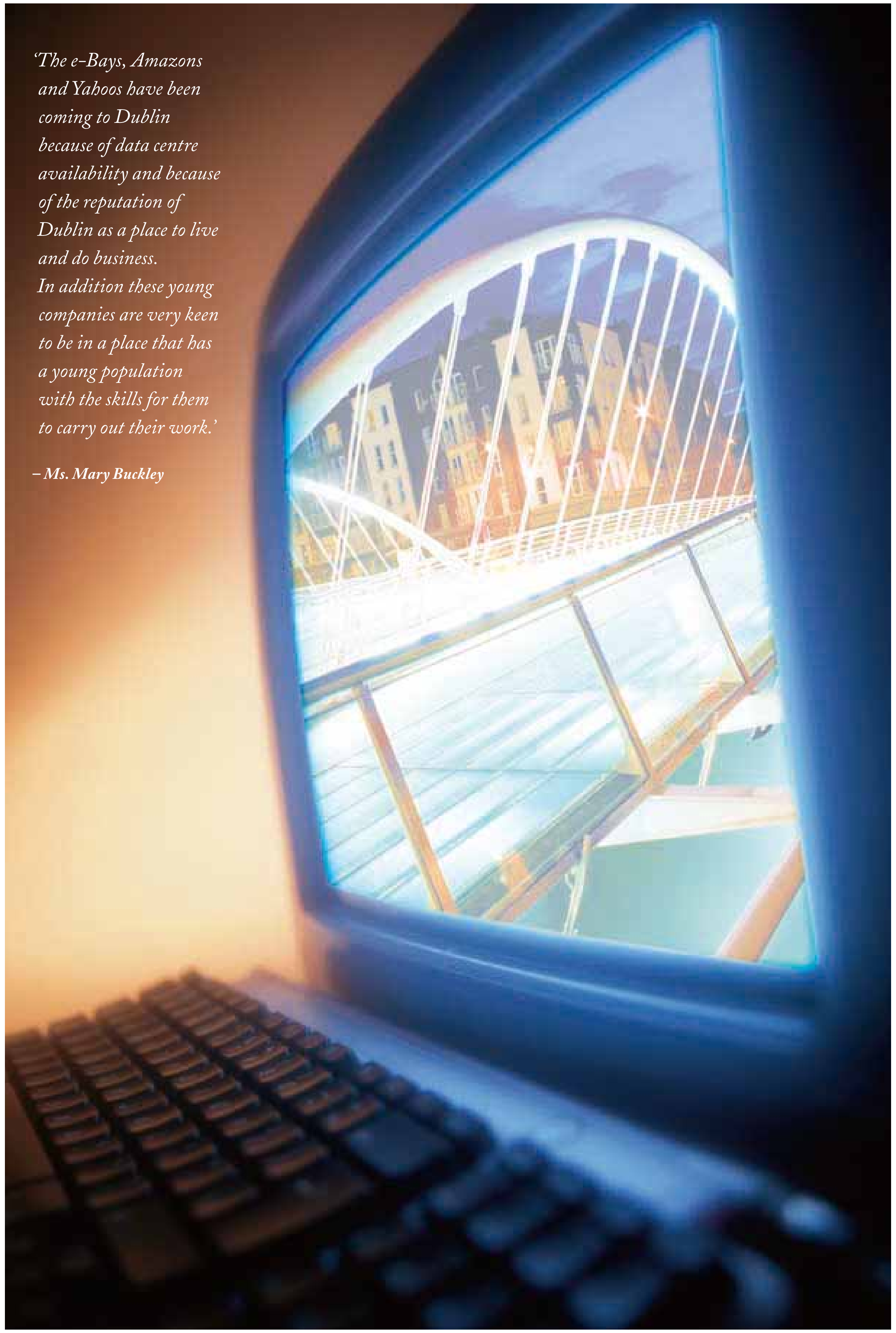

Dublin - Building on success in the Knowledge Economy

Ms. Mary Buckley, Manager of Regional Development and Property Division, IDA

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in Ireland

There are over 1,000 foreign owned companies employing 129,000 people based in Ireland and overall, foreign direct investment accounts for €72 billion in exports and it generates over €18 billion into the Irish economy every year. Nine of the ten top pharmaceutical companies in the world are based in Ireland and, in fact, Ireland is the world's largest exporter of software. Particular examples would be Intel in Kildare and Wyeth in Grangecastle in Co. Dublin. Wyeth's €1.6 billion investment will be the largest bipharma facility in the world. International consultants A.T. Kearney has termed Ireland the most globalised economy in the world.

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in Dublin

Dublin with its population of approx. 1.4 million is Ireland's only global centre and has been very successful in attracting and winning foreign direct investment.

There are 455 IDA client companies in Dublin, employing almost 46,500 people. This is almost half of all IDA supported companies, and it covers about one third of IDA supported employment in the country. The e-Bays, Amazons and Yahoos have been coming to Dublin because of data centre availability and because of the reputation of Dublin as a place to live and do business. In addition these young companies are very keen to be in a place that has a young population with the skills for them to carry out their work.

In recent times, however, the global market economy for foreign direct investment has changed due, mainly, to advances in information, communications and technology. Dublin, and indeed Ireland, finds itself in a globally networked economy which makes things much faster, much more competitive and it brings a lot more competitive locations for the IDA and for Ireland to compete against.

Dublin's competition and what they have in place

Singapore is a big competitor for Dublin, particularly on the pharmaceutical side. Singapore was placed second in the World Competitiveness Year Book and they had foreign direct investment of about $16 billion at the end of 2004. Singapore is a world player in foreign exchange trading, pharmaceuticals and is a very well established logistics centre. They are focused, like IDA and like Ireland, on moving up the value chain and winning R&D investment. Their spend on R&D is quite high and they are very focused on research, through PhD graduates, which ensures that they have the R&D base needed to move forward.

Amsterdam, with its population similar to Dublin, is also a competitive location for Dublin. The business sectors of Amsterdam are not unlike Ireland and Dublin, e.g. banking, distribution, financial services. Amsterdam has a hub airport, which carried 39 million passengers in 2004, which demonstrates it's ease of access. The names of the key players in Amsterdam are similar to those in Ireland.

So what has been the IDA Response to the global challenges?

1. The IDA has been very focused on winning new green field investment, however, due to the nature of the global economy and the competition we face for FDI, Ireland must focus on more complex, higher value, knowledge-based activities.

2. Ireland continues to attract advanced manufacturing operations, (e.g Intel's four wafer fabrication plants in Leixlip involve investment of well over €5bn and employ 5000 people which is also equivalent to €1m per employee) that are at the cutting-edge of technology, where high productivity output is heavily reliant on the skills and capability of a highly educated and agile Irish workforce. A significant number of leading edge manufacturing operations are thriving and expanding in Ireland . A major focus of IDA strategy is the integration of manufacturing with other parts of the value chain, such as customer and technical support, supply chain management, headquarters functions and research and development all of which sustain and embed FDI operations in Ireland.

3. The IDA is pitching for business in R&D, brand management, IP and the digital media type activities.

4. The IDA is working closely with the existing base of companies which are very important to the economy in that they know the business environment here. And when these companies are considering expansion of their operations, the IDA wants them to expand in Ireland, and where appropriate, in Dublin.

5. The IDA has a very strong property portfolio around the country and indeed in Dublin. They have about 300 acres of land available for marketing purposes around Dublin.

6. The IDA is very focused on the necessary infrastructure and on finding out what their clients are looking for going forward. The IDA is focused on meeting the needs of potential clients in education, particularly skills, innovation, research.

What does Today's Investor seek?

Human Resources - Ireland needs to increase the numbers and levels of PhDs graduates it produces in order that the right mix of human resources is available. In addition the continuous upskilling and reskilling of the national workforce is critical, in this regard IDA are working closely with FAS who have developed a number of programmes in this area.

World Class Infrastructure - Dublin and Ireland should endeavour to ensure access, energy, telecoms, environment, waste, property solutions, business services, attractive lifestyle and amenities, as well as clusters of similar and supporting business.

The Right Attitude - Dublin and Ireland needs to retain its ability for companies to have a can-do attitude.

IDA Strategy for the Dublin Region

The IDA's strategy for Dublin is as follows:

- Influencing and partnering with the Chambers of Commerce, the local authorities, IBEC and others;
- Highlighting all the benefits of Dublin and ensuring that it is a premier choice for overseas companies to locate;
- Focusing on research and innovation by actively working to build the academic research capability within the third level institutions and working with the multi-national base here to increase their R&D activity;

There is a target for overseas companies to spend €1.7 billion by 2010. That is to triple the amount of activity that is currently taking place. It is very important to develop the connectedness between both industry and academia. If industry and academia are collaborating and working well together, this is where Ireland will see the benefits in the future.

IDA's vision for Ireland

To be a world leading society, which is reflected by a knowledge based economy, with world class infrastructure and services.

We want to be at the forefront of technological innovation and in the top 3 competitive economies in the world. To achieve this, we need people and want people who are committed to life long learning, and to be a socially inclusive and cohesive nation with the highest environmental standards.

Dublin's Economy – Long Term Growth and Competitiveness

Ms. Gina Quinn, C.E.O., Dublin Chamber of Commerce

Infrastructure in the Greater Dublin area

There are massive infrastructure deficits in the Greater Dublin area and these are causing problems in terms of where we stand in attracting investment into the region. In seeking to attract investment, however, we are not just talking about new investment, the kind that the IDA are focused on, but also existing investment. We must ensure that we attract new investment from existing companies that are based here in Dublin. Important decisions that have been discussed recently, like Dublin Airport, are just one part of the total panorama. We must look much more widely at other issues such as waste, environment, tourism facilities, conference facilities, and so on not to mention the transport brief.

In addressing these issues, we should also consider the administrative system of the region, which the Dublin Chamber of Commerce believes should be better in actually bringing forward more strategic planning for the Greater Dublin area. A concept that the Chamber has been pushing for is the establishment of a Greater Dublin Area Authority, and the following fact will demonstrate our argument.

Dublin in the European context

We all know the changes that have taking place in Dublin (and indeed in Ireland) in recent years. Our GNP has grown very dramatically, e.g., in 1995, Ireland was 10% below the European average, now we are 15% to 20% above the European average. This is a fantastic performance, in which Dublin has been a very key driver. Dublin accounts for a large proportion of the population in the country, as well as half of the national output and two out of every five jobs in the country. So it must be remembered that Dublin is an enormously important driver for the whole economy and Ireland's whole positioning globally. In the European context Dublin is doing quite well, Fortune Magazine ranked Dublin this year as the fifth most important city for business within Europe, after London, Frankfurt, Helsinki and Amsterdam.

Fortune.com	Europe's top cities for business 2005
1	London
2	Frankfurt
3	Helsinki
4	Amsterdam
5	Dublin

The important thing to focus on is where we go to from here, and how we move forward. We have a very strong profile in terms of foreign direct investment. Indeed, while Ireland is overall the fourth most important destination for US foreign direct investment, the Greater Dublin area itself accounts for about half the foreign direct investment that comes into Ireland. So the whole issue of how Dublin presents itself to the sort of companies that are investing in the area, e.g., the financial services sector, the ICT service sector, pharma chem., logistics, food and drink, is extremely important.

Dublin from the point of view of the investor – a scenario

Looking at Dublin from the perspective of a potential investor requires that we ask ourselves why would a firm invest in/continue to invest in the Dublin region. Well let us take a journey with an investor.

1. Travelling through Dublin Airport

Let us imagine that a couple of investors have arrived into Dublin Airport. Travelling by plane they are quite pleased to find that Dublin is an airport that is well connected to the rest of Europe and the United States. So we are on a good platform to start with.

Looking around the terminal, however, they note how busy it is and investigating a little from the colleague who has met them, they find that passenger numbers have more than trebled since 1991 (i.e. from 5 million passengers to the current levels of over 18 million) with no sign of abating. The increased terminal capacity that was brought on stream in 2002 is fully utilised and the estimates for future traffic are that we will have 22 million passengers coming through the airport by the end of this particular decade, and over 30 million passengers coming through by the end of 2020.

Enquiring about the future development of the airport, the investors are informed that the development of Dublin airport has been caught up in a political row. This information does not allow the investor to feel confident of our ability to provide the must needed access and egress for their enterprise.

2. Journey to the city centre

So they pass through the airport terminal and are collected by car. This is not their preferred method of transport, because thinking forward to all of their colleagues who are going to be coming into this area, (should they decide to make this investment), they are considering the costs and the inconvenience of their people having to travel by car, from the airport, because there is no direct rail link with the city centre from Dublin airport. (Dublin is the only European capital city without a rail link between its airport and the city centre).

Driving from the airport to the city centre - it's a wet Monday and the traffic is horrendous. It is not clear if there is an accident up the road, or whether there is something else problematic, but by the time they get to their first meeting, they are already late. Commenting on the traffic, the investors are told that because of the high level of commuting from the eastern region there is enormous pressure on the Dublin transportation system, which is causing all sorts of additional costs, both environmental costs and congestion costs, through delays, to business in the movement of both their people and their goods and services around the city.

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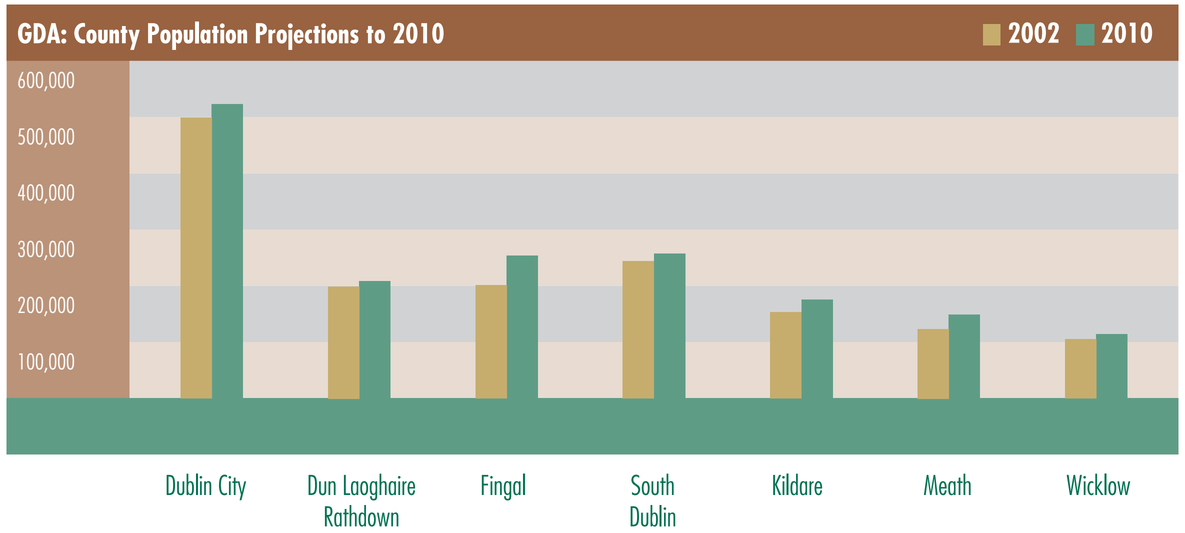
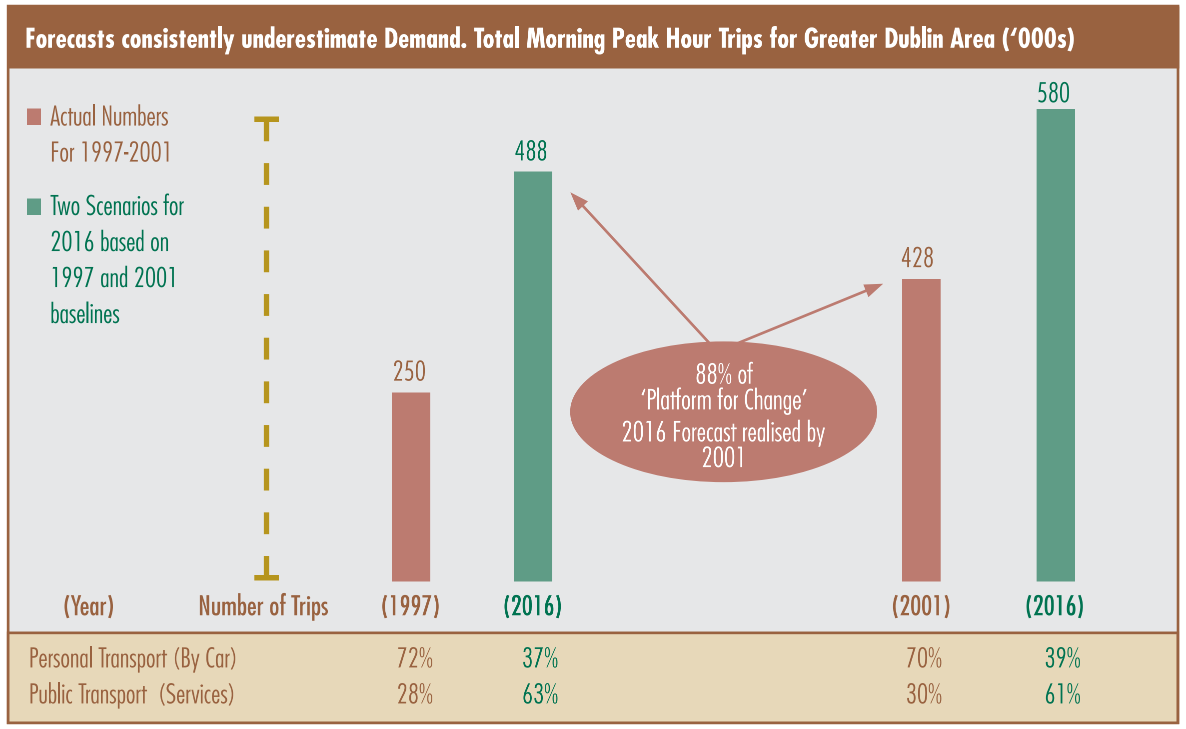


The visitors can also see that the population projection for the area is showing further growth. Moreover, we have tended to underestimate our growth. If you take for example traffic levels, our traffic levels are already at the levels projected for 2016, the current traffic on the M50, is running at about 85,000 vehicles per day, with peaks up to 100,000 vehicles per day.



And what these investors are seeing is the Dublin area as very much a monocentric urban area, with Dublin as the dominant feature with other centres feeding into it. The investors wonder why the usual solution for that sort of monocentric structure has not been put in place, in other words, the high capacity public transportation which is typically delivered by metro or rail in other European centres. When the investors enquire about this they are, yet again, told that the decision on the metro is still being considered by Government.

3. The waste management position

The next question the investors ask is the cost of waste. Environmental issues are very important to these investors as their future investment is going to be a waste generating activity.

They very much approve of the fact that recycling rates for municipal waste including both commercial and industrial waste, have risen from 7% in 1997 to 20% in 2003, and that we are on target to meet packaging waste recovery targets.

However, they then note that the cost of waste management for Dublin businesses is very high and is in fact, one of the highest land fill charges in Europe. Take some comparisons –

- In the UK the waste cost, on average, is €39 a tonne;
- In Sweden it is €90 a tonne;
- compared to Ireland, which is on average €180 a tonne, rising to €224 a tonne in South County Dublin, (the location where the investors are expecting to site their new facility).

When they ask about why the costs are so high, they are told that the new waste to energy facility has been held up by political indecision and planning delays, and that it will be on line by 2010 at the earliest.

So how do you think these investors feel?

Granted, there is the 12.5% corporation tax, our good education system and our young population, but there are also a few warning signs. There has been a drop off in the take up of science and engineering courses at third level. There is also a tight labour market. All of these factors coming together might just mean that the sell that the IDA has to do, is just too hard against eastern European countries, or indeed locations further afield like China, India, etc. Let us also remember that this is not just a problem for foreign direct investment, it is also a problem for indigenous businesses trying to keep their business running here, who are themselves looking at where they will put their next investment euro.

The solution

So what should be done about this? Well, the Dublin Chamber of Commerce believes that there are some structural issues that need to be addressed in how we move forward.

1. The Greater Dublin area has to be addressed as a whole, as a combination of Dublin and the Mid-East regions together, and policy decisions have to focus on that. The labour markets in these areas work as one unit, people live in one area and commute to another. They are strongly linked in terms of shared infrastructure and it is very important that we analyse and develop these regions together.

2. The current system of central Government and autonomous Local Authorities in the Dublin metropolitan and hinterland areas, is not suitable for the sort of very pressing challenges that need to be addressed. While the four local authorities and the neighbouring counties co-operate and meet, both formally and informally, there remains a need for much stronger structures in the greater Dublin area through a Greater Dublin Area Authority. The deficit in terms of the collective task is just too big for us to do in any piecemeal fashion.

3. There are very major issues facing us, housing, transport, water, waste, etc. and these issues do not stop at county borders. Compounding this is the instances of development in one area adversely affecting another area, this needs to be co-ordinated overall.

4. The remit of this 'Greater Dublin Area Authority' should cover the whole of the Dublin metropolitan and hinterland areas. Its functions should include the development and management of the principle infrastructure projects and programmes, for example, land use, transport, waste management, water provisions and waste water services. The existing Local Authority system has a vital role and should have key responsibility in terms of delivery of projects, while the Greater Dublin Area Authority would have responsibility for overall strategic planning and direction in terms of implementation. There should also be a Greater Dublin Area Transport Authority as an integral part of this structure.

The Dublin Chamber of Commerce believes that this is really the only way that the Government can actually move through and progress the very courageous decisions in terms of the infrastructural requirements for this area. We also believe that this is the only way that we can convince the Department of Finance that the investment that is required in the Greater Dublin area, actually is not only merited but will give a return to the Irish economy.

Conclusion:

So in conclusion, the Dublin Chamber of Commerce believes that for the Greater Dublin area to develop, it needs a clearly defined development strategy for the city and the surrounding areas. Business needs to know with certainty what is going to happen with regard to the development of infrastructure, (and not just what is going to happen, but when it is going to happen and that it is going to be delivered in a very timely and efficient way).

All of this needs to take into account labour supply factors, centres of population, the social infrastructure and the quality of life which is so important in attracting people to investment in this area. It is important that we make Dublin the area of future economic growth for Ireland and a global centre for Europe, not just business, but also for the 1.5million people that will be living here in future years.

The Global Economy – a role for Dublin

Mr. Martin Cronin, CEO, Forfás

Dublin is often regarded as a great big magnet, against which we all must pull in order to ensure balanced regional development. However what is often overlooked is that Ireland *needs* a major magnet to attract certain kinds of high value investments that are needed if we are to be prosperous and also to provide an environment where world class companies, that are capable of competing on a global basis, can emerge.

People are now beginning to recognise that the Dublin City-Region is becoming a real node of global economic development. After all, every successful region that you look at has a successful city sitting somewhere in the middle of it. We all know that politically Ireland is a country, but economically it behaves more like a region. For example, there is a high degree of mobility of both labour and capital into and out of Ireland and these are characteristics of a region as opposed to a major country like the United States or Britain.

The Knowledge-based economy

If Dublin is to compete internationally, it is crucial that it has the critical mass within the region to meet the needs of the knowledge based economy. The knowledge based sectors that Ireland has decided to focus on are the kind of sectors that are always found in and around the most dynamic cities of the world, because dynamic cities, by their nature, can offer a wide range of different and necessary facilities.

Dublin tends to rank poorly on innovation. However, more recently we are spending a lot more on research and the Dublin Universities are doing their bit by capturing more than their share of public research funding.

Making progress in the hierarchy of cities

There is a global hierarchy of cities and it is important to understand where Dublin fits into that hierarchy.

- In the Irish context, Dublin is king. Cork, Limerick and Galway are vibrant cities but they lack scale, and the third tier cities in Ireland, e.g. Waterford, Sligo and Dundalk, have a hill to climb if they are to become vibrant gateways that will support prosperous regions around them.
- In the international context, Dublin's ranking is suddenly very different. The major European cities are London, Paris, Rome and Munich. However, Dublin compares well with cities like Manchester, Turin, Oslo and Helsinki, and it shows a lot of potential for development. This shows that there is a lot of room for Dublin to develop and grow and become even more successful. (See Table 1 on the following page.)

Table 1		
GDP per capita 2001– EU cities (€)	EU City	GDP
1	Frankfurt	74,465
2	Karlsruhe	70,097
3	Paris	67,200
4	Munich	61,360
5	Dusseldorf	54,053
6	Stuttgart	53,570
7	Brussels	51,106
8	Copenhagen	50,775
15	Amsterdam	38,203
16	Munster	38,149
17	Wiesbaden	37,454
18	**Dublin**	**36,591**
19	Vienna	36,572
20	Stockholm	35,733

However, turning to the income per head in major cities in Europe, Dublin does not sit that high. Ireland as a country has a very high GDP per capita relative to other European countries, but as a City Dublin has ground to make up to match the most prosperous city-regions in the European context. (see Table 2)

Table 2	
Ratio of GDP per Capita:	City vs. National
Frankfurt/Germany	3.8
Paris/France	3.5
Brussels/Belgium	2.6
Copenhagen/Denmark	1.9
Amsterdam/Netherlands	1.8
Vienna/Austria	1.8
Helsinki/Finland	1.7
Stockholm/Sweden	1.7
London/UK	1.7
Dublin/Ireland	**1.5**
Rome/Italy	1.5
Berlin/Germany	1.2

It is important to recognise that making further progress will not be easy. We may have a successful economy here today, we may have low unemployment, but if we want to move forward we must face the fact that there is strong competition from cities with deeper skill bases and better infrastructure than Dublin offers at the moment. We also need to make progress on quality of life issues and we must work to provide the range of skilled and experienced people required by advanced companies in Dublin. The bottom line is that there is no room for complacency if we are to compete, not just among European city-regions but also with city-regions globally from Singapore to Shanghai and many others. (see Table 3)

Dublin's Ranking as Business Location

Table 3
OVERALL
12th Access to Markets (key factor) – 23rd
Availability of Qualified Staff - 15th
Cost of Staff – 7th
Quality of Life – 13th
Climate Government Creates – 1st

(Source: Cushman Wakefield Healey & Baker, European Cities Monitor 2004)

When asked which cities were doing the most to improve themselves, only 5 percent of those surveyed cited Dublin compared to 22 percent for Barcelona and 17 percent for Madrid.

Physical access and electronic connectivity

Physical access and electronic connectivity are increasingly important in a globalising environment. It is important that there is a good environment for innovation. The enterprise base should not be concentrated in a small number of areas and a good quality of life is crucial.

In the area of access and connectivity Dublin faces a lot of challenges, especially in terms of physical access. These problems are due - at least in part - to slow responses to infrastructure needs, poor planning and delays in decision making and delivery.

Skills needs

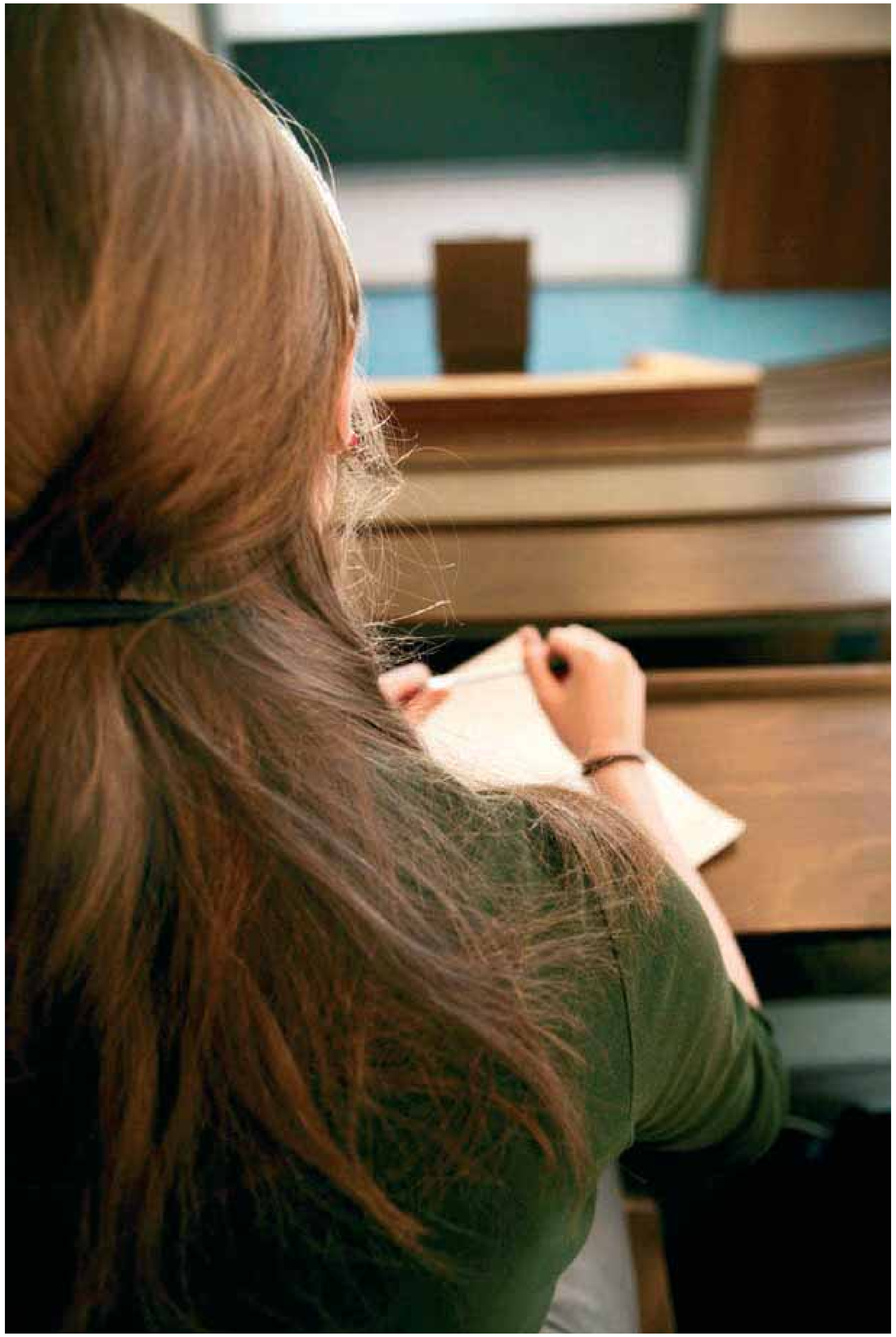
Dublin is ranked well in a national context in terms of skills, but we do need to ramp up training, particularly of those at work, and to capitalise on the fact that we have a very young and adaptable work force in Ireland.

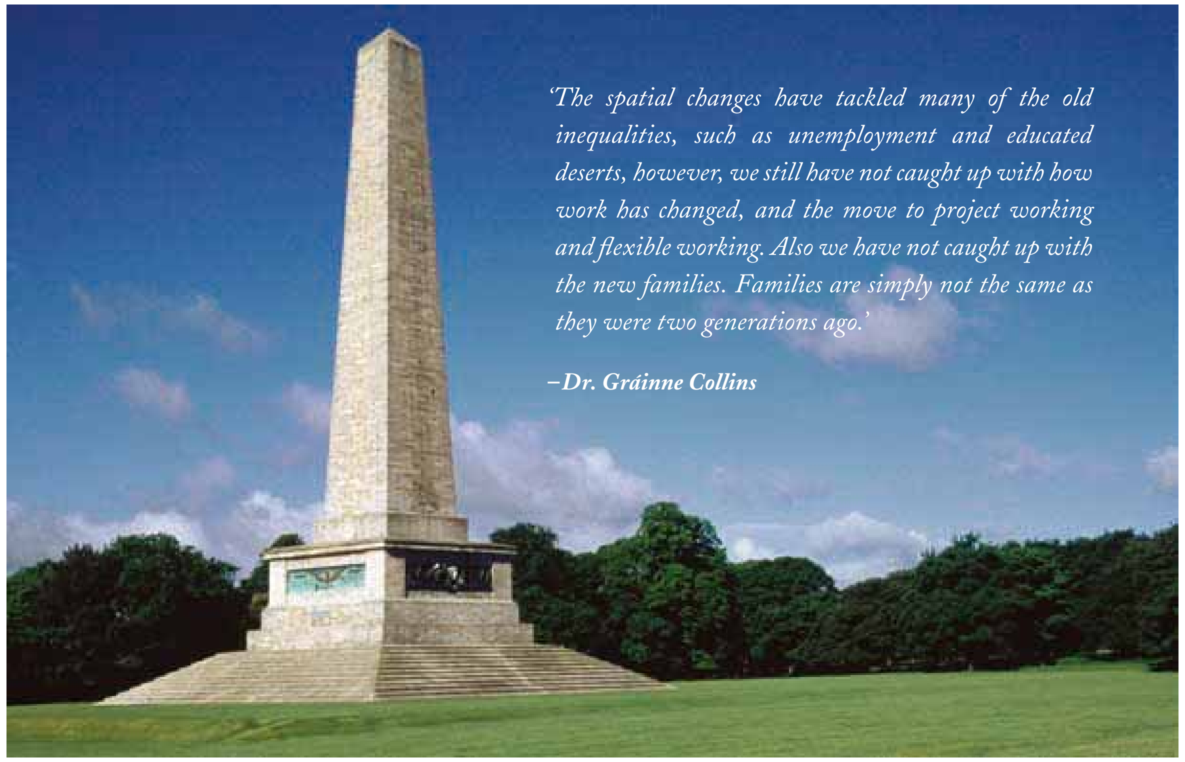
Dublin scores extremely well on the diversity of its enterprise base and on the fact that modern high tech, high growth sectors are strongly represented. From this perspective it looks better than most cities - better than Singapore, Manchester and even Barcelona. However, we need to continue to look after the geese that are laying the golden eggs for us.

A move towards higher value activities requires ever higher skills. People with these high skills are very mobile and have to be attracted by providing a high quality of life. What is critical about this for Dublin is that relative to competing cities, the quality of life here has been deteriorating in some respects. So we really do need to keep that at the top of our agenda and get more serious about things like implementing integrated land use and transport strategies. We have a good base to build on, but let us not become complacent because of that.

Conclusion

Finally, whatever Dublin does, if we are to succeed we have to be conscious of what is going on around the world. Forget the short term trends that nobody can predict, but look at the long term trends that are more certain. Globalisation will continue to march on. The two and a half billion people - mostly in Asia but also in central Europe, who have joined the world economy in the last ten years, will continue to march on. Technology will continue to march on, and the pace of change will continue to accelerate. As President Clinton said in his inauguration speech, one of the big challenges for any developed country is to make change its friend rather than its enemy.





A Dublin for Families?

Dr. Gráinne Collins, Trinity College Dublin

Employment in the Celtic Tiger and its effect on the Family Dynamic

What does it mean to be employed in the new tiger economy? What does it mean to be unemployed? To answer these questions we need to know how three things are changing.

1. We need to know how work organisation has changed: we're now working in different sectors. The vast majority work in the services sector with agriculture having been virtually eliminated in Dublin. But even within that, how we work has changed with a move to project work and to working in teams.

2. We also need to understand that the amount of reward in work has changed dramatically: fifteen years ago we used to think that the high inequality rate in Ireland was being driven by the high unemployment rate. However unemployment has fallen but the inequality rate has not. This is because inequality in work has increased. This increase can be linked to democratic and family structural changes. Women are now much more likely to be employed after they have children than they were ten to fifteen years ago. For example, we are currently at the European level, whereas fifteen years ago, we were at 40% of the European level.

3. Finally we need to understand the link between these two changes and spatial changes. Where do people live and work? How do they move between those places?

An Examination of the Census, Family Surveys and Equality Audits of Companies

Mothers Vs Fathers

A European Study, carried out by Margret Fine-Davis of Trinity College Dublin, found that Dublin fathers spend a relatively long amount of time away from their children; they also work slightly longer than average; and spend a much longer time commuting compared to their European counterparts. The Study also found that Irish women did not spend longer away from their children, this might be for two reasons, (1) when Irish women have children they tend to down shift, they make use of family flexible working arrangements, and (2) they tend to work closer to where their children are based, so they have less commuting time.

An equality audit of one of the biggest companies in the country carried out by myself and a colleague showed that younger fathers were much more likely to have working partners than their older counterparts. What this meant was that they were the most time pressured group. There were a number of different arrangements in the company that allowed women to balance child care with employment which men didn't use, meaning that fathers today are less flexible now than the fathers of 15-20 years ago.

Pay and Equality

Work carried out by Indecon, as well as the ESRI, has shown that Ireland has one of the highest gender pay gaps in the OECD. Women in this country earn less per hour. While some countries have managed to narrow the gap, Ireland has been relatively unsuccessful in this regard. While it is accepted that men and women do work in different sectors, it is still the case that when in the same sectors, such as education, women tend to be at the bottom of those sectors. It was also found that women were much less likely to do overtime, and much more likely to take advantage of family flexible working. The results of these findings are indicative of the "old economy".

The New Economy

Representing the new economy, research undertaken by DCU has shown that sectors in the new economy tend to be extremely gendered. Women find it very hard to fit into this new flexible working environment, into project work and into team work, as this type of working is very "time greedy". While the average hours worked do not tend to be high, they tend to be high at specific points.

Importantly, both men and women said they enjoyed this environment but they could not see themselves doing it long-term, i.e. they would not continue their job and have children.

The Revival of Dublin

In the last twenty years there has been a gentrification and sub urbanisation of Dublin and some parts of the city have experienced a real renaissance. Areas that were once considered no go areas, unemployment black spots and education deserts, have been turned around. According to the census of twenty years ago many of these areas would have had no degree holders, whereas today these places are rich with people with Degrees, Masters and PhD's.

A look at today's census however will indicate that these households do not have any children, and children in these areas are not in households with Degree qualifications. These areas have attracted educated couples, who when they have children, move to the suburbs, resulting in an increase in sub urbanisation, because the apartments where they might raise families do not exist. The consequences of this can be seen quite clearly. Women downshift, they go to less stressful jobs closer to the family home, so that they can pick up the children and be there if there are any problems. Men continue to commute and continue to spend long periods of time away from their children.

Overall, however, there are a number of negative effects resulting from these factors.

- Women are losing income, which has long term down stream affects on their pension entitlements.
- Men are losing time with their children.
- Poor areas are losing educated residents, losing people who could stand up for the local causes.

So is Dublin family-friendly?

The spatial changes have tackled many of the old inequalities, such as unemployment and educated deserts, however, we still have not caught up with how work has changed, and the move to project working and flexible working. Also we have not caught up with the new families. Families are simply not the same as they were two generations ago. So the challenge is not just to be woman friendly, but it is also to be family and parent friendly. We have to recognise that families and work have changed. We have to build family homes closer to work and locate work closer to families, to build family homes in the city centre and to encourage work out to the suburbs. Finally, commuting times needs to be addressed.

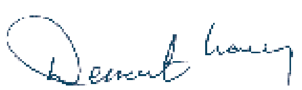
Closing statement of An Cathaoirleach

From reading the foregoing, we see that there has been great improvement in the lives of the majority of Irish citizens in the last decade or so. For example, the high level of job creation, the drop in unemployment, the rise in incomes, the improvement in the public finances and the high rates of economic growth. However, there are also many outstanding problems, i.e., job quality – training/reskilling, job location – travel to work patterns, public transport - congestion, waste management – increased costs and social exclusion and equality are key issues which should not be moved up the priority scale. These issues need to be tackled holistically.

The concept of the 'urban region economy' means that Dublin's competitors for investment, co-operation and growth are not other regions in Ireland but comparably-sized urban centres elsewhere in Europe. A fundamental rethink in the way Dublin is perceived by national planners, policy makers and others is urgently required. Dublin must be seen in its context as a European capital city-region. In this it is a relatively small city - only 34th in Europe - and it is competing with other European cities in the process of globalisation. Dublin requires a certain level of scale if it is to compete with other European cities and it is relatively under-developed in physical infrastructure, technically and in its social, cultural and other infrastructure.

Urbanisation is continuing - people like to live in cities and the key task for national policy is to ensure that Dublin continues to be an attractive place to live, work and play. Dublin's continued development does not pose a threat to other towns and cities in Ireland, but rather would complement them. A greater threat to these urban centres is the cost and social impact of the suburbanisation of *their* regions.

Success has brought new problems of congestion and high house prices, but with good policy decisions, these and the key problems of long-term unemployment and social disadvantage can be dealt with effectively. There never has been such an opportunity to deal with such problems. The state has more than sufficient finance to address the infrastructural shortfalls and the pockets of severe long-term unemployment, and the specific employment problems of lone parents, travellers and other disadvantaged. This is the opportune time to address Dublin's economic and social problems.



Dublin Regional Authority Membership

The Dublin Regional Authority consists of a Board of 30 elected representatives nominated from the four Dublin local authorities operating within the region as follows:-

Local Authority	Population County/City (2002)	% Apportionment	No. of Members
Dublin City Council	495,781	44.2%	14
South Dublin County Council	238,835	21.3%	5
Dun Laoghaire/Rathdown County Council	191,792	17%	6
Fingal County Council	196,413	17.5%	5
TOTAL	**1,122,821**	**100.00%**	**30**

REGIONAL AUTHORITY MEMBERS:

Dublin City Council

Cllr. Maurice Ahern (Fianna Fail)
Cllr. Tom Brabazon (Fianna Fail)
Cllr. Christy Burke (Sinn Féin)
Cllr. Catherine Byrne (Fine Gael)
Cllr. Eibhlin Byrne (Fianna Fail)
Cllr. Anne Carter (Labour)
Cllr. Dessie Ellis (Sinn Féin)
Cllr. Mary Freehill (Labour)
Cllr. Dermot Lacey (Labour)
Cllr. Bronwen Maher (Green)
Cllr. Wendy Hederman (Progressive Democrats)
Cllr. Brian Gillen (Fine Gael)
Cllr. Andrew O'Connell (Sinn Féin)
Cllr. Vincent Jackson (Community)
Ex-Officio Member: Lord Mayor of Dublin

Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown

Cllr. Nessa Childers (Green)
Cllr. Pat Hand (Fine Gael)
Cllr. Gerry Horkan (Fianna Fail)
Cllr. Eugene Regan (Fine Gael)
Cllr. Lettie McCarthy (Labour)
Cllr. Maria Corrigan (Fianna Fail)

South Dublin County Council

Cllr. Marie Ardagh (Fianna Fail)
Cllr. Mark Daly (Sinn Féin)
Cllr. Stanley Laing (Fine Gael)
Cllr. Tony McDermott (Green)
Cllr. Coim Tyndall (Progressive Democrats)

Fingal County Council

Cllr. Peggy Hamill (Labour)
Cllr. May McKeon (Independent)
Cllr. Michael O'Donovan (Labour)
Cllr. Margaret Richardson (Fianna Fail)
Cllr. Anne Devitt (Fine Gael)

Dublin Regional Authority Contact Details

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Dublin 1.

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Email: info@dra.ie
Website: www.dra.ie

Staff Members:

1. Dublin Regional Authority

Director:	Ms. Patricia Potter
Staff Officer:	Ms. Mary O'Donnell
A/Staff Officer:	Mr. Mark Sutton

2. Committee of the Regions Irish Delegation

Secretary:	Ms. Patricia Potter
Co-Ordinator:	Mr. Robert Collins, (Brussels-based Officer)*
Support Officer:	Mr. John Crowley, (Dublin-based Officer)**

3. Regional Planning Guidelines for the Greater Dublin Area (RPG)

Secretary:	Ms. Patricia Potter
RPG Officer:	Ms. Deirdre Scully***

4. Irish regions Office, Brussels

Director:	Ms. Patricia Potter
Head of Office:	Mr. Robert Collins
Policy Officer:	Mr. Eamon O'Hara

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DUBLIN
REGIONAL
AUTHORITY

ÚDARÁS
RÉIGIÚNDA
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