



Comhairle Contae County Council

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown

Draft Socio-economic Statement 2023-2028



Prepared By
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council
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Executive Summary

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown (DLR) County Council is currently preparing the County's new Local Economic and Community Plan 2023-2028 (LECP). The new plan will seek to achieve our vision for a progressive climate resilient County that is inclusive, promotes quality of life, health and wellbeing, economic activity and employment and builds a better future for all. Vital to the development of the new LECP is comprehensive public and stakeholder consultation.

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council are now inviting views from the public, the private sector and other key stakeholders in relation to the development of the new plan.

A number of key consultation events and opportunities will be planned and promoted in the coming weeks. These opportunities will include written submissions, online community and business surveys, workshops and 1:1 key stakeholder interviews.

After the consultation period has ended, we will review all your input and feedback, and update the High-Level Goals to ensure they reflect community priorities. Your submissions will also help us to decide on specific actions to take over the course of the plan to ensure that we are actively working towards achieving the goals identified in the LECP.

What is a Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) ?

The LECP will guide both the sustainable economic development and community development of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown from 2023-2028. It will include goals and objectives related to community elements including actions to support inclusion, access to services (healthcare, childcare, education and other supports) and addressing poverty. The plan will also look to address economic elements with goals, objectives and actions related to attracting investment, job creation and supporting existing businesses amongst other areas. It will be combined with existing programmes to deliver economic and community gains for the County.

In doing so, the new LECP will be a shared plan with actions championed by the Council, the private sector, the community and other key agencies and partners. It will look to address specific needs and enhance Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown as we progress towards 2028.

What is this document – the draft Socio-Economic Statement?

The draft Socio-Economic Statement is a consultation document to encourage discussion on key topics that affect everyone who lives in, works in and visits Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown (DLR). The publication of this document marks the start of the important consultation stage in the development of the new LECP.

The document sets out:

- » Background information and statistics on economic and community life in DLR
- » A SWOT analysis outlining the key Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats in DLR
- » Ten proposed High-Level Goals that set the initial strategic direction for the new plan

The High-Level Goals are as follows:

- 1 To create a climate resilient County, by promoting and delivering best practice in climate mitigation, adaptation, biodiversity, and the circular economy, central to community, enterprise, and the economy.
- 2 To protect and enhance the County's commercial and employment districts.
- 3 Continuous development of the local economy and development of pathways to employment building an inclusive, creative, and robust economy.
- 4 Enhance educational opportunities and strengthen skills while promoting social inclusion and equality for all.
- 5 Realise and protect the economic and social value of the County's heritage and its cultural activity, while enabling the expansion of a sustainable visitor economy.
- 6 Promote a healthy County, where everyone regardless of age, ability, location and socio-economic background can enjoy good physical health and positive mental health and wellbeing to their full potential.
- 7 Promote and embed equality, multiculturalism and social inclusion within the County.
- 8 Promote active participation and civic engagement within the County.
- 9 Enable a high quality of life, in vibrant communities, building on a network of connected towns and villages, in order to create a smart, attractive, and sustainable living and working environment.
- 10 Continuous development of a collaborative environment to deliver accommodation in the County.

Have your say - it's your County, we need your input!

It is essential that the LECP reflects the needs and ambitions of all communities in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown. We really want to know what you think are the main issues facing the County into the future. The Council would like to hear your views on the High-Level Goals outlined in this document as well as ideas and actions for areas to be addressed under the new LECP.

Views, ideas and feedback can be sent via email to LECP@dlrcoco.ie or via post to DLR LECP, Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council County Hall, Marine Road, Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin, A96 K6C9 before 4.00pm Wednesday 10th May 2023.

A number of key consultation events and opportunities will be planned and promoted in the coming weeks. Information about upcoming consultation sessions and surveys will be available on the Council's website at www.dlrcoco.ie/lecp. Follow [#DLRLECP](https://twitter.com/DLRLECP) on social media or email lecp@dlrcoco.ie



1 Introduction



1. Introduction

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown's Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) will set out, for the period 2023-2028, the objectives and actions needed to promote and support the economic development and the local and community development of the County.

The Plan will build upon and replace the previous LECP,¹ which ran from 2016 to 2021 and is still operational. It will set out not only the actions of the Local Authority, but also the work that will be carried out in partnership with other economic and community development stakeholders in the County.

The Economic Development and Enterprise Strategic Policy Committee and the Local Community Development Committee will oversee the implementation of this plan which will play a central role in supporting a more integrated approach to economic and community development.

This Socio-economic Statement is an integral part of the development of the Local Economic and Community Plan for Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown. The Statement includes a socio-economic analysis which provides a comprehensive picture of the economic and social make-up of the County, and allows an insight into the opportunities and challenges to which the LECP must respond. This analysis provides the basis for the development of a number of high-level goals which will ultimately be central to the LECP. The proposed high-level goals are set out in this document.

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown's Local Economic and Community Plan 2016-2021

In developing this Statement, the opportunity has also been taken to reflect on the previous Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown's Local Economic and Community Plan 2016-2021 which provides a strong foundation for the development of the forthcoming Plan. Significant progress was made in relation to many aspects of the Plan, and many of the objectives, by their nature, remain works in progress. Where appropriate, previous goals will be retained or adapted, while the new LECP will also identify new priorities where necessary.

Background

Following legislative changes in 2014 related to the local government strategy 'Putting People First: Action Programme for Effective Local Government', the remit of local authorities includes a renewed and clearer role in economic and community development. In this regard, each Local Authority is required to develop and make a Local Economic and Community Plan which is a statutory plan for the area.

It is vital that the goals, objectives, and



¹ https://www.dlrco.ie/sites/default/files/atoms/files/dlr_lecp_annual_report_2016_2.pdf

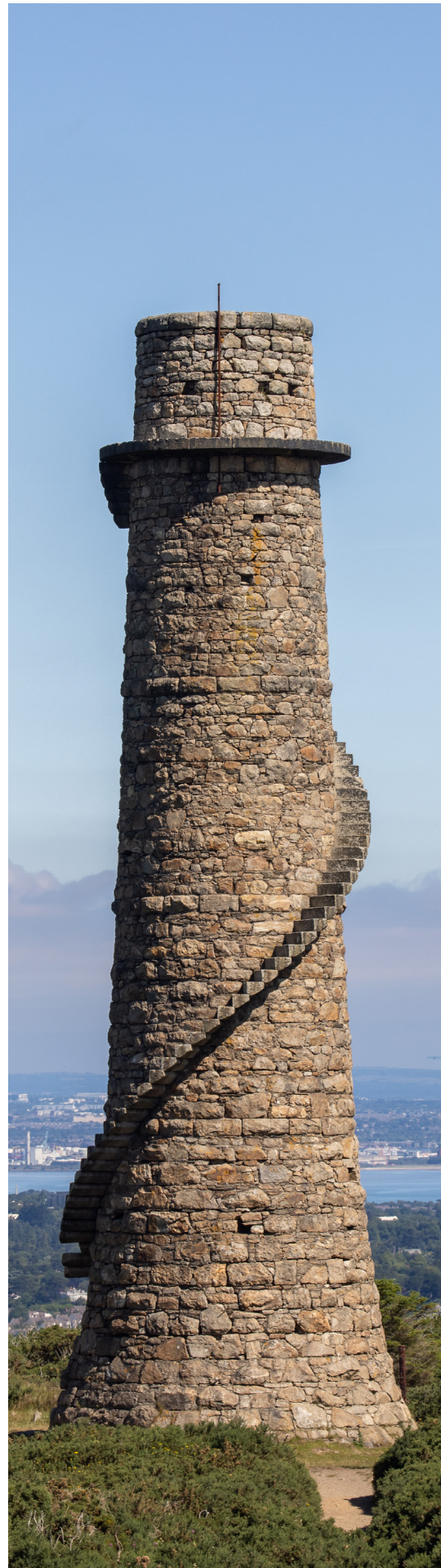
actions that form Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown's Local Economic Community Plan for the next period 2023- 2028 are complementary to, and consistent with national and local strategies to address these challenges, particularly, the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy, the County Development Plan and relevant economic and community-oriented strategies and policies. While the timelines for the development and implementation of these inter-related plans are not always the same, every effort is made to ensure that these policies align to maximise their effectiveness.

As analysis of the delayed Census 2022 data is still underway, up to date, important socio-economic and population data is not currently available to support the LECP development process. However, where available, alternative data sources have been used - the datasets and sources used are set out in Appendix 1.

Particular consideration has been given to Climate Action, Sustainable Development Goals, and the Public Sector Duty in the development of this Statement.

Climate Action

The need to address the climate crisis is one of the defining contexts to be addressed at all levels of government in Ireland. The LECP is a key framework through which climate action interventions can be delivered at county level, giving action to the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021 and the ongoing implementation of Climate Action Plans.



Sustainable Development Goals

The LECP will be developed within the context of the principles of sustainable development.

The UN’s 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is a set of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to end poverty, fight inequality and injustice and tackle climate change, by 2030. The SDGs are a call for action by all countries – poor, rich and middle-income – to promote prosperity while protecting the planet. They recognise that ending poverty must go hand in-hand with strategies that lead to sustained, sustainable and inclusive economic growth and address a range of social needs, including education, health, social protection and job opportunities, while tackling climate change and environmental protection.

The SDGs provide a critical framework for community development as they reflect the social justice, economic justice and environmental justice concerns of community work and community workers and designate the processes of participation, empowerment and collective action required to achieve change.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Public Sector Duty

The Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty is a statutory obligation which requires public bodies, in the performance of their functions, to have regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, promote equality and protect the human rights of their employees, customers, services users and everyone affected by their policies and plans.

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council will work with other relevant stakeholders to ensure that the objectives and actions detailed in the LECP are designed to support these responsibilities where appropriate.

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County (DLR) is located between the outer suburbs of Dublin City and the Dublin mountains. It has a population of 233,457 according to the 2022 Census.

The County covers the electoral areas of Blackrock, Dundrum, Dún Laoghaire, Glencullen-Sandyford, Killiney-Shankill and Stillorgan. Although the majority of the population in the county is urban, there are three designated rural electoral divisions – Glencullen, Tibbradden, and Shankill-Rathmichael. A new town, the biggest urban infrastructure in the country is being built at Cherrywood, which will have a population of 25,000 people.

DLR has a highly educated and skilled labour force, and there are currently over 95,000 people in employment. This is primarily driven by Sandyford Business District and larger towns such as Blackrock, Dún Laoghaire, Dundrum and Stillorgan. Major employers include international IT and pharmaceutical companies, as well as financial and service industries. Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown has excellent access to educational facilities and is home to UCD, Ireland’s largest university, which together with IADT, provides third level education to 32,000 students per year.

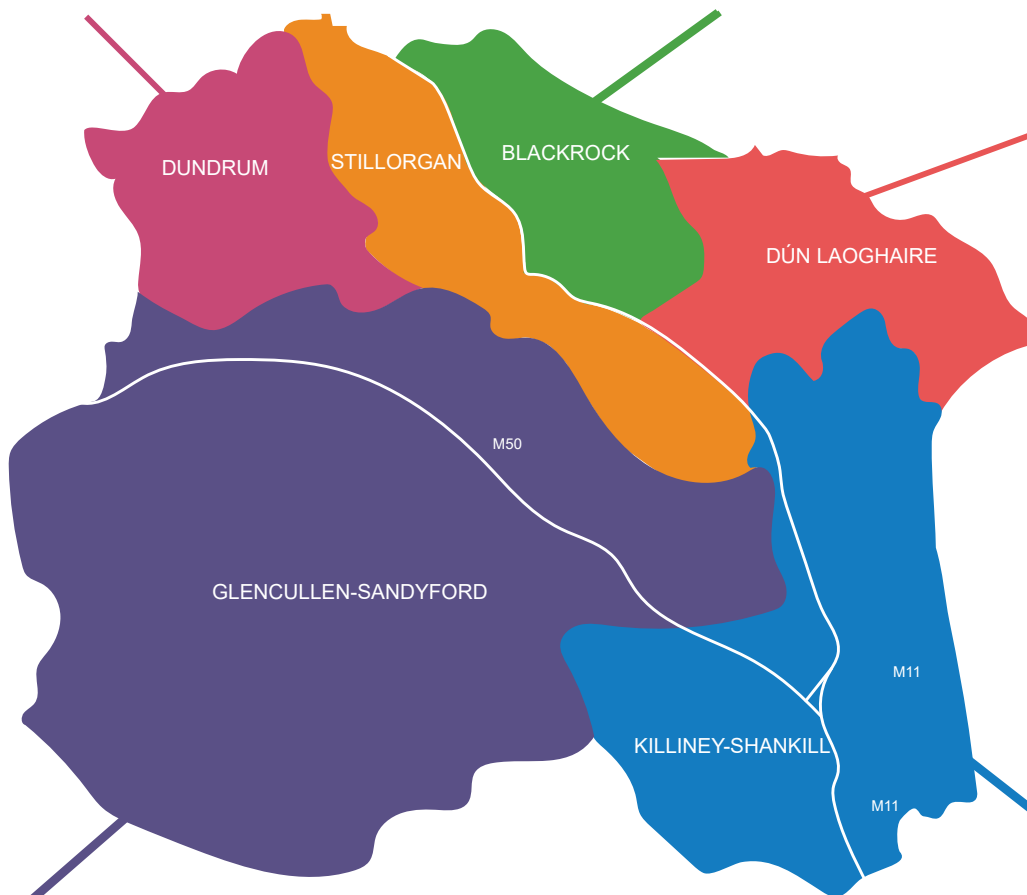


Figure 1: Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Electoral Areas



2 Dún Laoghaire- Rathdown Socio-economic profile



Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Socio-economic profile

By examining data available from the sources identified at Appendix 1, the following relevant highlights have been extracted to provide an overview of the county profile from the perspective of population; housing; employment, economy & enterprise; community wellbeing; deprivation, poverty & social exclusion; transport & infrastructure; and climate change & energy.

Population

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown has a growing and increasingly diverse population. The County's population is expected to continue to grow in the medium term.

- » DLR is a growing County. Preliminary data from the 2022 Census indicates that the population of DLR was 233,457, up 15,439 from the 218,018 people who lived in the County in 2016.
- » Population growth in DLR for the period 2016 to 2022 was 7.1% and this was broadly in line with that of the State at 7.6%.
- » The location of population growth across the County between 2016 and 2022 was spatially uneven – with some areas growing significantly while other areas experienced population decline. The Electoral Divisions which realised population growth included both new residential growth areas such as Ballyogan and Environs and existing built up areas such as Dundrum and Dún Laoghaire. Other Electoral Divisions experienced population decline including, for example, at Ballinteer, Ballybrack and Sandycove. (Census 2022 – Preliminary)
- » DLR has experienced sustained population growth of c. 1.2% per annum through each of the last three intercensal periods (2006-2011, 2011-2016 and 2016-2022), comprising a c. 20% increase in total County population in the last 16 years.
- » Recent population growth in DLR has been supported by high levels of inward migration (Census 2011 and 2016). Preliminary data from Census 2022 indicates a continuation of this trend.
- » The National Planning Framework and EMRA Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy indicate continued population growth in DLR over the medium term (EMRA RSES).
- » In 2016 the population of DLR was 52% female and 48% male (Census 2016)
- » At 32% (69,851 persons) the proportion of population in DLR comprising Children and Young People (0 to 24 years) was broadly in line with the State. Between 2011 and 2016, DLR experienced a notable change in the '0-4 years' age cohort which increased by 5%, which was in contrast with a 7% reduction in this age cohort experienced at the national level. (Census 2016).

- » At 15.9% (34,669 persons), DLR has a higher proportion of population aged 65 years and over when compared to the State (13.4%). The rate of growth in population aged 65 and over in DLR through the period 2011-2016 was, however, at 16.1%, lower than the 19.1% growth experienced at the national level. (Census 2016)
- » DLR has an age dependency ratio² of 52% (census 2016)
- » Young dependency³ in the County is projected to increase from c.28% in 2016 to 31% in 2033 but decrease thereafter to a young dependency ratio of c. 27% in 2031 and falling significantly further to c. 22% in 2040. In contrast old dependency⁴ in DLR is projected to continually increase from 24% in 2022 to c. 31% in 2027, c. 33% in 2031 and c. 41% in 2040.

Table 1: Projected Young and Old Age Dependency Ratios for DLR

| DLR | 2016 | | 2022 | | 2027 | | 2031 | | 2040 | |
|----------------------------|----------------|--------|----------------|--------|----------------|--------|----------------|--------|----------------|--------|
| | No. of Persons | DR | No. of Persons | DR | No. of Persons | DR | No. of Persons | DR | No. of Persons | DR |
| Young Dependency (0-14) | 40,039 | 27,996 | 47,324 | 31,196 | 45,998 | 29,196 | 43,696 | 26,969 | 36,651 | 21,996 |
| Old Dependency (65+ Years) | 34,669 | 24,296 | 41,123 | 2,796 | 48,254 | 30,596 | 54,193 | 33,396 | 69,406 | 41,496 |

Source: Calculated using data from the HNDA Data Repository - ESRI 50:50 City Scenario

- » DLR has an increasingly diverse population. The majority of the County's residents are Irish (87.5%). Other nationalities include British (2%), Polish (1.5%), other EU (3.8%), rest of the world (4.2%) (Census 2016). In the latter part of 2022, conflict-affected Ukrainians have been accommodated in the County.
- » 0.2% (411 persons) of the population in DLR are travellers (Census 2016)
- » There were 37,478 family units with children in DLR in 2016 (Census 2016).
- » In 2016, 26.8% of families in DLR were classified as 'Adult' which comprises a family nucleus where the oldest child is aged 20 years and over. This was the highest family unit type in DLR in 2016 (Census 2016).
- » In 2016, 13.4% of families in DLR were categorised as 'Retired', which was above the State figure of 10% (Census 2016).
- » DLR had a one parent family ratio of 15.4% in 2016 which is below the national rate of 20% (Census 2016)⁵.

² The age dependency ratio of a population is the sum of the young (0-14) and old (65+) as a percentage of the working age population (aged 15-64)

³ The young dependency ratio is the number of young people aged 0 -14 as a percentage of the population of working age.

⁴ The old dependency ratio is the number of people aged 65 and over as a percentage of the population of working age.

⁵ This is based on the number of families with some or all dependent children aged under 15 years.

Climate Change and Energy

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council continues to implement and monitor its Climate Change Action Plan 2019-2024 and mainstream its efforts and collaborate across departments, staff and elected members, to achieve energy efficiency and emission reductions across its own buildings, facilities, travel, functions and services, and influence climate action in the wider community.

- » The Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021 sets in legislation a national target of 51% reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2030, with net-zero emissions to be achieved no later than 2050.
- » The Council fulfils an exemplary role with respect to energy efficiency, including through their energy management practices.
- » Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council has 17 km of coastline - the recorded average sea level rise in Dublin Bay for the period between 2000 and 2016 is 6-7 mm per year (Climate Change Action Plan Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council 2019-2024)
- » The County faces significant flood risk, particularly along its coast where it is at risk of tidal flooding. Inland, it faces fluvial flood risk along the River Dodder and its many tributaries (Climate Change Action Plan Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council 2019-2024)
- » Total emissions for the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown area amounted to 1,139,570 tonnes of CO₂eq in 2016 (Codema, 2016)
- » The sectors that produced the most emissions were the residential, transport and commercial sectors, accounting for 43.5%, 33.1% and 18.5% of the total emissions, respectively (Climate Change Action Plan Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council 2019-2024)
- » The County's residents produce 132 tonnes of household waste per capita per annum, which is significantly lower than that national average of 152 (Environmental Protection Agency, 2020)
- » Residents in DLR recycle more per capita than the average, producing 63 tonnes per capita per annum in green bin waste, compared to a state average of 56 (EPA, 2020, from E & C Monitor)
- » 83% of the public lighting in the county was LED by the end of 2022 (Annual Progress Report 2022 for Climate Change Action Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council 2019-2024).
- » The Council has signed up to the European Circular Cities Declaration, being the first local authority in Ireland to do so. This is a commitment from cities and regions across Europe, to enhance efforts to transition from a linear to a circular economy.
- » Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council has selected the Dún Laoghaire and Blackrock areas, as a new Decarbonising Zone (DZ). The development of a DZ, is a local authority action, of the national Climate Action Plan 2021. This zone is set to become the focus for a range of climate action measures, such as the identification of projects and outcomes, that will contribute to achieving national climate targets.
- » There are currently 27 Sustainable Energy Communities (SEC) in DLR. These communities participate in the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) programme to become more energy-efficient, use renewable energy and consider smart energy solutions. CODEMA, Dublin's Energy Agency, are the regional coordinator for the Dublin and Mid-East region.

- » The Green Business Section and the Local Enterprise Office (LEO) continue to engage with businesses across the County, in programmes such as EcoMerit, MODOS and Green for Micro.
- » The Council participated in Dublin Climate Action Week 2022. Over fifty online and in person events took place throughout the week, which included webinars, workshops, site visits, cycles and walking tours.



Housing

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown has the highest rate of home ownership in Co. Dublin and has experienced a significant increase in housing construction, particularly in the delivery of apartments. 2022 will have the highest number of residential completions recorded in DLR in over a decade.

- » DLR has a housing stock of 94,283 homes. Between 2016 and 2022 the housing stock in DLR increased by approximately 7,000 homes, or an average of approx. 1,200 per year. This comprised an increase of 8.4% in the total housing stock in the County, which was well above the comparative figure for the State which stood at 6%. (Census 2022-preliminary).
- » There are 78,601 households in DLR. The average household size in DLR in 2016 was 2.72, and this was broadly the same as that of the State at 2.75. (Census 2016)
- » In 2016, two person households comprised the largest number of households in DLR (24,164 households). One and two person households comprised 41,740 households, or 53.1% of all households in the County. The largest increase in households in DLR over the period 2011-2016 was in the four person household category which increased by 10.7%. This was followed by 3 person households (+5.9%) and 5 person households (+8.6%).
- » 4,940 households are in social housing owned or directly leased by Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council as of November 2022 (Housing Dept., Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council)
- » 3,877 households are on the Social Housing Waiting List for the County as of November 2022 (Housing Dept., Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council)
- » In 2016, 69% of households in DLR were owner occupied. This comprised the highest rate of home ownership in County Dublin (60%) and exceeded the rates of home ownership in both the EMRA Region (65%) and the State (68%). In 2016, 31% of households in DLR were owner occupied with a mortgage, while 38% were owner occupied with no mortgage.
- » In 2016, 20% of households were renting from a private landlord. The number of households renting from private landlords in DLR increased by 5% between 2011 and 2016 (Census 2016).
- » In terms of household formation, in 2016, DLR had a lower proportion of individuals in the younger age cohorts (25-29 years and 30-34 years) that identified themselves as head of household in comparison to the State (Census 2016)⁶.
- » There has been a significant increase in housing construction in DLR and an increasing trend towards the delivery of apartments. There were 1,367 residential completions in DLR in 2021 (CSO). Completions have increased significantly in 2022 with over 1,600 new homes completed in the first three quarters of the year (CSO).
- » At Q2 2022 there were c. 5,800 homes under construction in the County, representing a robust pipeline of housing supply for the next 2/3 years. (Housing Supply Co-ordination Task Force).
- » There are a total of 85 families living in Traveller Specific Accommodation in the County (Traveller Accommodation Plan 2019-2024).

⁶ Headship rate provides a measure of the rate of household formation. The headship rate is the proportion of individuals in an age cohort that list themselves as head of household in the Census returns.

Employment, Economy, and Enterprise

The socio-economic profile of the County reflects both a well-educated and highly skilled resident workforce. Over 90% of leaving certificate students typically progress to third level education and the County has the lowest unemployment rate in the Country. However, the county also has a low workforce participation rate, reflecting the higher proportion of retired people and students resident in the county.

- » Based on 2016 Census data there were 92,909 jobs in DLR and a labour force of 103,641 people. This provides a comparatively positive and sustainable 'Jobs Ratio'⁷ for DLR of 0.9.
- » Of the 92,909 jobs in the County, DLR residents occupied approx. 53% or 48,963 of these jobs, while there were significant inflows of workers into the County from Dublin City (14,237), South Dublin (9,827), Wicklow (8,346) and Fingal (3,768).
- » Data from Census 2016 shows there were approximately 95,925 people resident in DLR who were at work, an increase of 9.6% from 87,490 in 2011.
- » In terms of employment outflows, the single largest employment destination outside of the County was Dublin City where a total of 34,291 DLR residents travelled to work. This outflow is considered relatively sustainable in the context of the primacy of Dublin City as an employment location and the proximity and availability of sustainable modes of transport connecting DLR with the City Centre.
- » Census 2016 data indicates that, at 58%, DLR has a relatively low labour force participation rate. This reflects the higher proportion of people in the retired age cohorts and the large student population in the County (Census 2016).
- » DLR recorded the lowest unemployment rate in the State for both Census 2011 (11.2%) and Census 2016 (7.4%). More recent live register data indicates the overall trend in unemployment in DLR is one of continual decline.
- » Over 47% of DLR residents aged 15 years and over, that have ceased education, have completed an Ordinary Bachelor's Degree or Higher and this is significantly higher than the comparable rate for the State (26.5%).
- » 91.6% of leaving cert students progressed to third level studies according to the 2016 census. This is significantly higher than the other Dublin local authorities.
- » DLR contains several third level and further education institutions including UCD, with c. 30,000 students, IADT with c. 2,500 students, Smurfit Business School, the Dún Laoghaire Further Education Institute, and the Irish Management Institute.
- » Census 2016 confirmed the continuing trend in the County towards a high proportion of residents employed as managers/ professionals. In 2016, DLR had the highest proportion (26%) of persons classified as Employers and Managers (Socio-Economic Group A) in the State. When combined with those employed as higher and lower professionals (Socio-Economic Groups B and C) this cohort increased to 56% of all residents in the County (Census 2016).

⁷ The 'Jobs Ratio' is used as an indicator to measure the sustainability of settlements and it has been suggested that on sustainability grounds, the ratio should not fall below 0.7.

- » The occupational composition of the County is characterised by a significant number of residents employed in the knowledge economy and high-value growth sectors. In 2016, there were 11,232 DLR residents employed in Professional, Scientific and Technical Activities followed by 10,934 DLR residents employed in Financial and Insurance Activities. The largest growth sectors between 2011 and 2016 were the Information and Communication sector which saw an additional 2,108 DLR residents working in this profession, followed by Professional, Scientific and Technical Activities, which saw an increase of 1,785 workers. (Census 2016).
- » At the end of 2021, DLR had 324 Enterprise Ireland supported companies. The majority of these companies (accounting for 70% of the employee numbers) operate in the Digital Technologies, Fintech/ Financial & Business Services and Hi-Tech Construction & Housing sectors. These Enterprise Ireland supported companies provide 13,933 jobs.
- » There are 63 IDA client companies located in the County, operating primarily in the financial services, software, ICT, and medical devices sectors. These companies represent significant foreign direct investment in DLR.
- » DLR has an emerging social enterprise sector, and work is currently underway on the development of a Social Enterprise Strategy for the County.
- » Dún Laoghaire harbour welcomed almost 70 cruise ships from April to October 2022 with over 90 ships expected in 2023.
- » 67,575 households have internet access and 7,041 do not have internet access (Census 2016).



Community Wellbeing

The county with its supportive environment and a range of inclusive facilities, programmes and initiatives aims to promote support for positive wellbeing outcomes for all in our communities,

- » Services such as the Arts; the Library Service; Community Development and Social Inclusion; Parks, Biodiversity, Heritage, and Sports Development & Partnership, are aimed at supporting community development and driving quality of life and wellbeing for all.
- » The Estate Management Programme is working in partnership in 12 areas, to progress actions to improve the local environ.
- » The DLR Social Prescribing Programme for Health and Wellbeing was established in early 2019. A social prescribing programme connects people with activities and services in the local community to support with wellbeing and social connectedness. The programme accepts referrals from participating Health professionals (including GPs, Primary Care and local hospitals) as well as self-referrals.
- » DLR has one of the highest rates of participation in sport and physical activity of any local authority in Ireland (Irish Sports Monitor 2017)
- » Older age groups are less likely to take part in sport and exercise, with 38% of those aged 65 years of indicating a need for increased participation of older people in physical activity. This compares to 73% among those aged between 16 and 24. (Source as above)
- » 89% of the population of DLR report their health as being “good” or “very good” (Census 2016)
- » DLR has 191 Pitches including soccer, GAA, rugby and cricket

- » The County has 63 Parks including 13 major/flagship Parks. It is estimated that 80% of households in DLR are within 600 metres of a park (Age Friendly Strategy & Healthy County Plan 2019-2022)
- » 27,266 people (12.5%) in DLR have a disability. This is slightly lower than the average for the Dublin Region (13.1%) (2016 Census)
- » 8,534 carers provide regular unpaid help in DLR (Census 2016).
- » At the end of December 2021, DLR Public Participation Network (PPN) had 531 active member organisations, an increase of 44 on 2020. This includes 423 Community & Voluntary, 94 Social Inclusion and 14 Environment groups.
- » DLR PPN concluded the dlr Vision for Community Wellbeing Statement in 2022 following extensive consultation

Deprivation, Poverty and Social Exclusion

DLR is a county of contrasts with areas of both affluence and disadvantage.

- » In 2019, Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown recorded the highest median household income in the State at €71,206, more than double that of the lowest (Donegal recorded a median household income of €34,655). Median household income in DLR was 12.5% higher than Fingal which had the second highest level in the State. It is noted, however, that household income in DLR is not distributed evenly across the County. In 2016, 11 Electoral Divisions recorded a gross median household income less than €50,000, while 7 Electoral Divisions recorded a gross median household income greater than €85,000. (CSO)

- » DLR includes areas of high socio-economic deprivation. Thirty-three of the 760 Small Areas⁸ in DLR are classified as disadvantaged or very disadvantaged. This accounts for a population of 10,289 or 4.7% of the total population. In these areas unemployment level is 21.4%. Twenty eight per cent of the population aged 15+ has had education to Primary level only, 44.3% are living in social housing and the lone parent ratio 42.4%. (Pobal Index).
- » Members of the Traveller community have poorer health than the rest of the population (All Ireland Traveller Health Study, 2010) and face barriers in accessing education, training, employment, and health services. In 2016 they were 411 Irish Travellers living in DLR.
- » Weekly cost of full-time childcare is the highest in the country at €244 per week. There are significant variations within the County however - the highest weekly full-time fee was €324.35, with the lowest €134 (Pobal Annual Early Years Sector Profile Report 2020/2021).
- » DLR has a relatively low proportion of community childcare services at 13%, with 87% provided by private operators (Pobal Annual Early Years Sector Profile Report 2020/2021).
- » Since 2015, the social inclusion programme, SICAP, has delivered support to build stronger communities in disadvantaged communities and to provide support for disadvantaged individuals. The two goals of the social inclusion programme, SICAP are Goal 1 to build stronger communities and leadership and develop solutions to Social Exclusion; and goal 2 to work with individuals, from young people to adults of all ages, in the county who are at greater risk of poverty, exclusion or disadvantage and in specific locations where we find higher levels of

unemployment, a greater concentration of jobless households, higher numbers of people with lower levels of education and more people struggling to make ends meet. The SICAP programme is making an ongoing contribution to the local community responses to people arriving from Ukraine into the county from March 2022.

- » The Festival of Inclusion was held in 2022, with the overall theme of promoting equality, diversity and inclusion in the county, with 50 events throughout the county, organised by the Council with a wide range of community/voluntary groups.

Transport and Infrastructure

DLR is a well-connected county, with an extensive network of active travel and public transport routes.

- » DLR has a growing network of active travel infrastructure.
- » DLR is well served by public transportation with the DART and Luas, as well as number of bus routes, providing links to Dublin city centre. It also has a good network of road transport links including M50, M11 and N11.
- » Journeys to work, school or college by bicycle showed the largest increase between 2011 and 2016, increasing by 32%. Journeys by public transport increased by 16% over the same period, while journeys by car (either as a driver or passenger) increased by only 2% (Census 2011 and 2016).
- » Travelling to work by car accounted for 52% of journeys to work, school or college in 2016, making car travel the most common means of commuting to work [Census 2016]

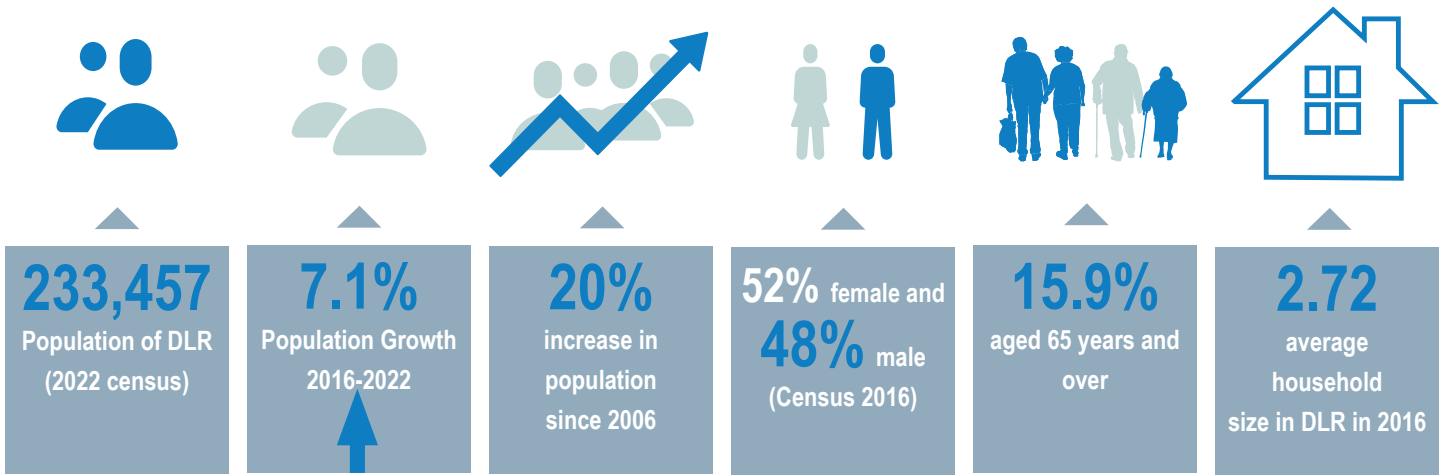
⁸ Small areas are a sub-division of the Electoral Division administrative unit. Census Small Area (CSA) generally cover 65-90 households.

All stats from Census 2016 unless otherwise stated

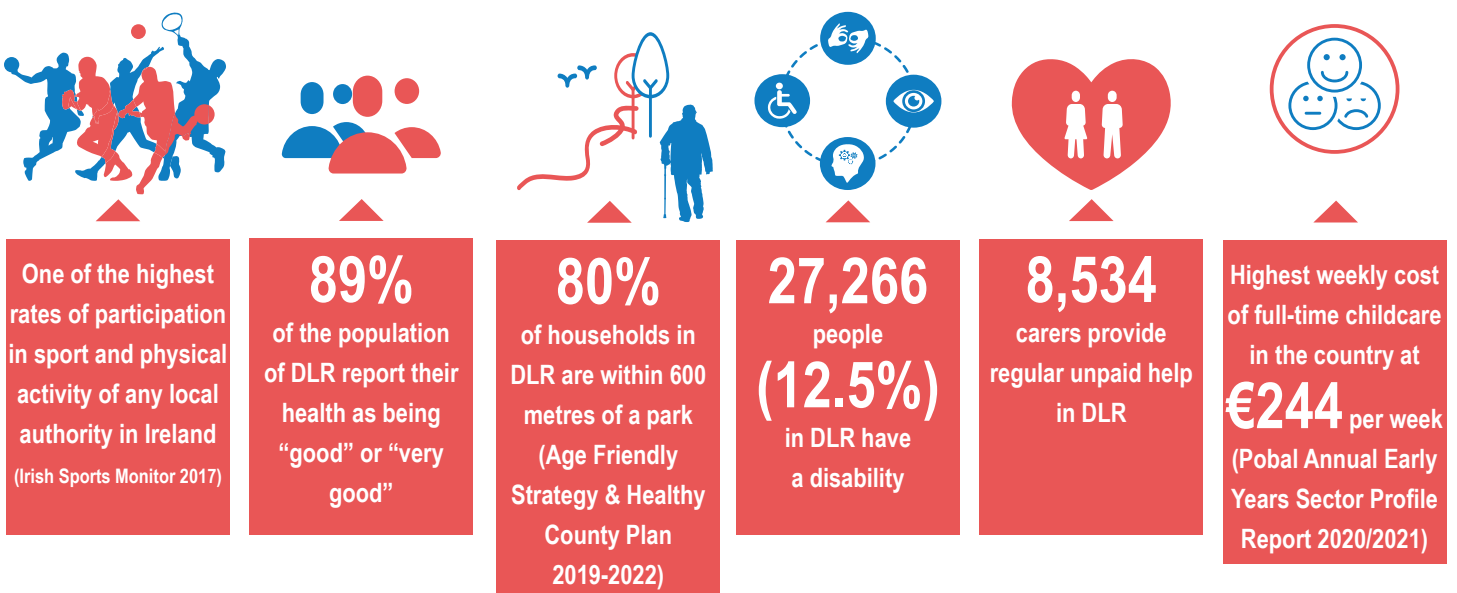
Summary of Key Findings

The below infographics provide an overview of key findings from the socio-economic profile of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown presented in detail on the previous pages. This includes statistics on the population, community wellbeing and labour. All statistics are from Census 2016 unless otherwise stated.

Population

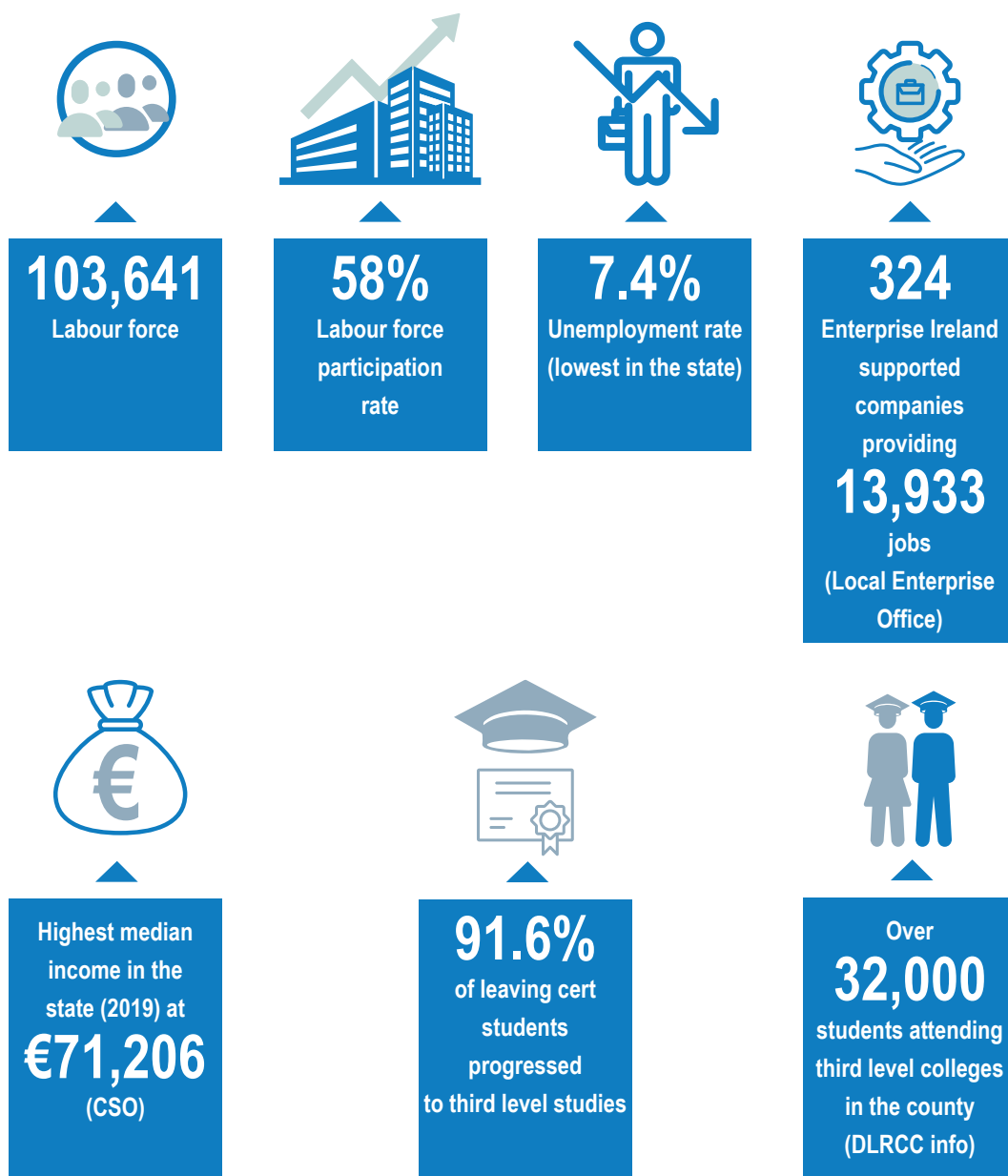


Community Wellbeing



All stats from Census 2016 unless otherwise stated

Labour



3 Economic and Community SWOT Analysis




Oifig Fiontair Áitiúil
Local Enterprise Office


Comhairle

The socio-economic analysis has identified a number of key strengths and opportunities as well as weaknesses and threats for the County. The SWOT analysis will provide guidance in relation to key areas that this Local Economic and Community Plan should focus on. A summary of this analysis is presented in the table below.

Economic and Community SWOT Analysis Opportunities

| STRENGTHS | |
|--|---|
| Attractive towns and villages combined with coastal and mountain assets represent strengths for community and for tourism sector | A robust and resourced 4-year Economic and Enterprise Plan up to 2024 |
| Ideal coastal location with a major harbour | A wide range of robust strategies and plans in place such as the Age Friendly Plan 2022-2026 |
| A range of parks and green spaces, indoor and outdoor recreational facilities and a network of community and sports facilities | Established networks of Community groups engendering civic pride |
| A metropolitan county rich in heritage and historical sites, with potential for enhanced and sustainable use and access | Highly educated and skilled labour force with a number of third level institutions based in the County |
| Record levels of housing supply, potential for development and growth | High number of persons employed in professional, managerial, and technical services |
| Located in the Eastern and Midland Region in close proximity to Dublin City | Strategic employment location at Sandyford Business District and developing at Cherrywood |
| Growing tourism location with a diverse offering from mountains to sea | Growing experience in deploying smart solutions for economic and community gain |
| Vibrant, accessible, and inclusive expanding library service, arts, and events programmes | Ability to access national funding supports |
| Good public transport links with further expansion of the bus network planned along with extensive established and planned active travel links | Robust climate action plan |
| Dedicated Active Travel team with access to significant NTA funding | High percentage of persons with 'good health' status |
| High ABC demographic | Mature collaborations between different stakeholders and agencies for engagement to progress and achieve the LECP community and economic objectives |
| Strong retail hubs along with fine-grained mixed use centres | Capacity and ability to respond to unprecedented crises such as Covid pandemic and Ukraine crisis |
| Mix of social backgrounds in proximity to one another | |

Economic and Community SWOT Analysis Opportunities

| WEAKNESSES | |
|---|---|
| The high cost of housing may limit ability of people, in particular younger people, to remain living, studying, and working in the county | Low labour force participation rate |
| Persistent deprivation in identified areas which have clear concentrations of more acute social deprivation | Limited capacity with respect to accessing EU funding |
| Difficulty in identifying and addressing deprivation in more dispersed locations | Low level of hotel accommodation in the County |
| Absence of DLR-specific socio-economic data in certain categories (e.g., visitor numbers, spend, etc.) | No sectoral managed clustering of business activities in the county |
| Weak cross-county and regional interconnectivity | Continued use of car travel for short journeys |
| Shortage of certain skillsets in the county's workforce | Challenge in engaging with hard-to-reach communities |
| M50 as a barrier to integrating developing areas | Limited collaboration with other Councils in the region |



Economic and Community SWOT Analysis Opportunities

| OPPORTUNITIES | |
|---|--|
| Potential to develop ten-minute neighbourhood where people can access daily needs by walking, cycling or public transport | Opportunity for development and support of inclusive social enterprises |
| Established infrastructure of community, cultural and recreational facilities offers scope for more efficient and expanded use to develop and build community capacity | High levels of third level and further education & training facilities in the county can deliver localised services in line with needs |
| Opportunity to utilise natural resources for development of renewable energy | Significant potential to grow philanthropy throughout the County. |
| Opportunity for green infrastructure and nature-based solutions (land and marine) to address socio-economic threats as part of climate change mitigation and adaptation | Opportunity to grow the existing innovative support ecosystem to assist businesses and the general economy |
| Strong volunteering tradition in the County can support further additional services | Potential to relocate traditional city centre businesses to the County as a result of COVID experience. |
| Opportunities to develop economic and recreational marine sector | Significant opportunities for employment in Sandyford, Carrickmines and Cherrywood with planning for c. 47,000 sqm of high intensity employment granted for the latter |
| Bus Connects will provide east/west connectivity across the county when it is introduced, addressing a current limitation to mobility. | Opportunity to look at mixed tenure within the delivery of housing |
| Develop a sustainable night-time economy while protecting existing amenity | Capacity to expand the level of accommodation and services for overnight visitors to the county |
| Build on the experiential retail and multifunctional nature of towns and villages | Retail diversification opportunities to move to new markets/products |
| Build capacity to monitor economic success | Unrealised potential in the sustainable development of a creative economy |
| Develop better understanding of county through data | Community interest in working ever closer together in delivering accessible inclusive services |
| Opportunity to bring marginalised communities into the workforce. | |



Economic and Community SWOT Analysis Opportunities

| THREATS | |
|---|---|
| Over-dependence on fossil fuels for household and business energy needs | Overnight visitors stay outside of DLR |
| Failure to utilise natural resources for development of renewable energy | Potential overdependence on large multinational employers |
| Heightened threat to DLR from climate change as a coastal county | Lack of critical skills in the SME sector impacting productivity and competitiveness |
| High cost of accommodation and the need to continue delivery of both public and private housing | Threat to high street retail arising from move to online and out-of-town shopping |
| Highest childcare costs in the State | Slow adaptation by many businesses and households in the mitigation of climate change |
| Tourist accommodation capacity issues may undermine ability to grow tourism and business sector | Limited universal/sustainable access to some heritage sites |
| Difficulties in adapting to the challenges posed by shifting demographics | Backdrop of rising inflation and potential inflationary pressures |
| | Low occupancy rate of larger houses |



4 Local Economic and Community Plan Vision



“

Dún Laoghaire Rathdown - A progressive climate resilient County that is inclusive, promotes quality of life, health and wellbeing, economic activity and employment and builds a better future for all.

”

5 Statement of High-Level Goals



Employment, Economy, and Enterprise

The LECP vision, socio-economic profile and the SWOT analysis have been used to establish a series of high-level goals which will provide the framework for appropriate related objectives and outcomes which will be necessary to enable their achievement and monitoring.

Underpinning this will be a strong commitment to work collaboratively and engage with a broad range of partners in implementation, knowledge sharing and accessing funding, best practice, and other supports.

These high-level goals will provide priority areas for the future development of the County.

High-Level Goals

| | |
|----|---|
| 1 | To create a climate resilient County, by promoting and delivering best practice in climate mitigation, adaptation, biodiversity, and the circular economy, central to community, enterprise, and the economy. |
| 2 | To protect and enhance the County's commercial and employment districts. |
| 3 | Continuous development of the local economy and development of pathways to employment building an inclusive, creative, and robust economy. |
| 4 | Enhance educational opportunities and strengthen skills while promoting social inclusion and equality for all. |
| 5 | Realise and protect the economic and social value of the County's heritage and its cultural activity, while enabling the expansion of a sustainable visitor economy. |
| 6 | Promote a healthy County, where everyone regardless of age, ability, location and socio-economic background can enjoy good physical health and positive mental health and wellbeing to their full potential. |
| 7 | Promote and embed equality, multiculturalism and social inclusion within the County. |
| 8 | Promote active participation and civic engagement within the County. |
| 9 | Enable a high quality of life, in vibrant communities, building on a network of connected towns and villages, in order to create a smart, attractive, and sustainable living and working environment. |
| 10 | Continuous development of a collaborative environment to deliver accommodation in the County. |

6 Sustainable Community and Economic Objectives and Desired Outcomes



In order to achieve the high-level goals identified, a number of specific objectives under economic development, community development and shared community and economic development are required. These objectives will provide the framework for appropriate related outcomes which will be necessary to enable their achievement and monitoring. Below, sample objectives under high level goals 1 and 2 are provided for illustration.

High Level Goal 1

To create a climate resilient County, by promoting and delivering best practice in climate mitigation, adaptation, biodiversity, and the circular economy, central to community, enterprise, and the economy.

Sample objectives

- Continue to support and influence climate action in the wider community and business sectors, working towards real solutions that are meaningful, inclusive, fair, and accessible.
- Provide for collaboration and partner engagement across the County, in the development of the Council's new Climate Action Plan, during 2023 / 2024 and subsequent implementation and monitoring.

High Level Goal 2

To protect and enhance the County's commercial and employment districts.

Sample Objectives

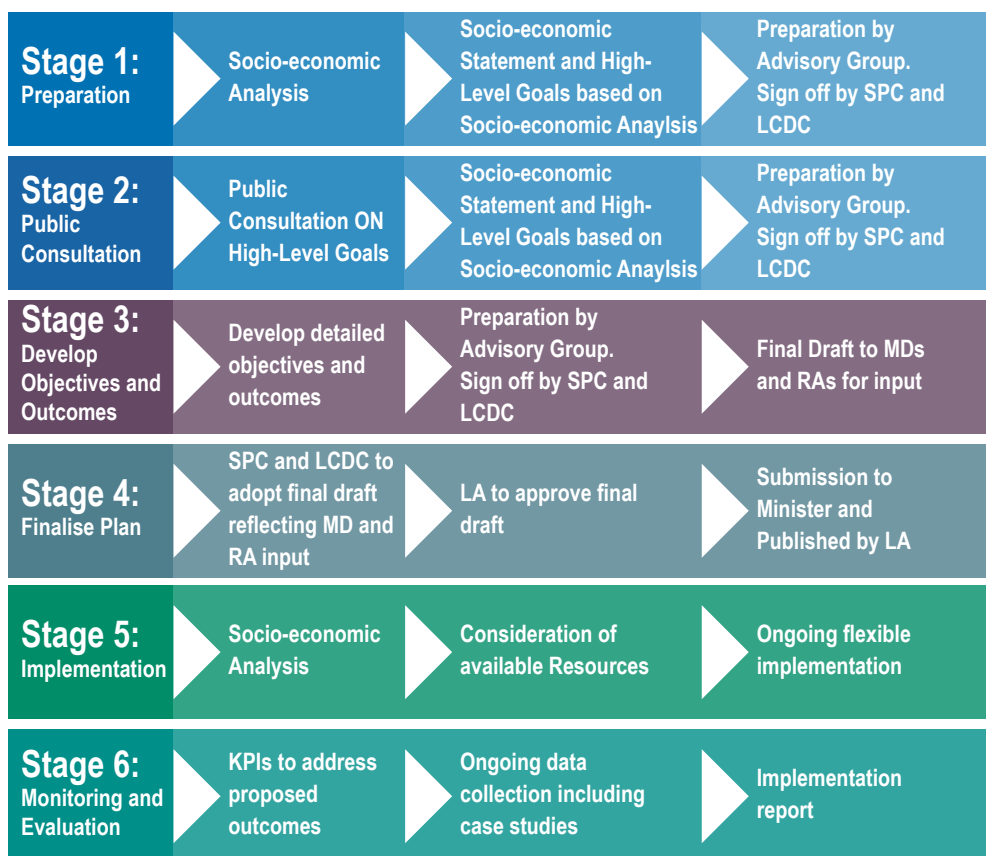
- Attract new investment, including in internationally traded businesses and new start-ups.
- Facilitate innovation and expansion of existing manufacturing and services enterprises

Appropriate detailed objectives will be developed as part of the public consultation process.

7 Next Steps



The public consultation process on the draft Socio-economic Statement represents stage 2 of the development of the Local Economic and Community Plan - figure 2 below outlines the stages involved in them development of this plan.



(Figure 2: Taken from LECP Guidelines 2021)

- This socio-economic statement will be revised based on the feedback from the public consultation process. Feedback received will be collated into a report.
- Detailed objectives and outcomes will be developed from the feedback received and will provide the foundation for actions to be determined as part of the implementation process.
- A draft LECP will be developed.
- A draft of the LECP will go to the Regional Assembly for input.
- Following feedback from the Regional Assembly the final LECP draft will go to the Economic Development and Enterprise SPC and the DLR Local Committee Development Committee (LCDC) for approval.
- The LECP will then go to the Council for approval.
- The LECP will then be submitted to the Minister.
- Once approved an Implementation Plan that will set out actions to deliver against the agreed goals, objectives and outcomes will be developed.
- The LECP will be kept under review through detailed monitoring.

Appendix



Appendix 1

| Dataset/Document | Author |
|--|--|
| Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Baseline Emissions Report 2016 | Codema |
| Age Friendly Strategy 2021 – 2026 | Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council |
| All Ireland Traveller Health Study, 2010 | School of Public Health, Physiotherapy and Population Science, University College Dublin |
| Census 2011 | Central Statistics Office |
| Census 2016 | Central Statistics Office |
| Census 2022 | Central Statistics Office |
| Children and Young People's Plan 2020-2022 | Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council |
| Climate Change Action Plan 2019 – 2024 | Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council |
| Corporate Plan 2020 – 2024 | Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council |
| County Development Plan 2022 – 2028 | Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council |
| DLR Road Safety Plan, 2022-2030 | Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council |
| Economic & Community Monitor | Tableau Public |
| Environmental Protection Agency 2020 | |
| Healthy Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Plan 2019-2022 | Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council |
| Irish Sports Monitor 2017 | Sport Ireland |
| Local Economic and Community Plan (2016-2021) | Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council |
| Local Enterprise Development Plan 2021 – 2026 | Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council |
| New Dwelling Completions Data | Central Statistics Office |
| Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) | Eastern & Midland Regional Assembly (EMRA) |
| www.housingagency.ie | Housing Supply Co-ordination Task Force |
| Pobal (2016). HP Index. [online] Available at: https://www.pobal.ie/app/uploads/2018/06/The-2016-Pobal-HPDeprivation-Index-Introduction-07.pdf | Pobal |

