

‘Smart Docklands’ Dublin’s local action plan

URBACT III



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Executive Summary

The Smart Docklands program is an initiative of Dublin City Council and the CONNECT Centre at Trinity College Dublin aimed at creating a world-class smart technology testbed in the heart of Dublin. Our overall vision is to make the Dublin Docklands one of the best places to live and work in the world through connecting communities and empowering them to harness technology that will improve their lives.

The main objective of Dublin City Council's (DCC) involvement in SmartImpact was to increase the capacity of the organisation to plan and implement smart technologies and infrastructures. While Smart Dublin is driving change at a regional level, there was also a need to better understand the challenges of deploying smart city technology on the ground. From the outset of this project in 2016 we have aimed to create a world-leading smart technology testbed in the heart of Dublin where the DCC could collaborate with academics, startups, corporates and citizens to develop solutions to real urban challenges and attract more innovation into Ireland. Another important aim is on scaling these solutions so that the wider city region can also benefit from them.

The [Smart Docklands](#) project was officially launched in February 2018 at [a global gathering](#) of city technology and information leads in partnership with Harvard TECH. The area was chosen as it has unique potential as a smart city district. A previously derelict site, it has been subject to integrated development since the 1990s and it is now a hub for leading technology companies that are ready to make use of a world-class testbed in their backyard. There is also a high concentration of new buildings and investment as well as a wide range of connectivity and 'smart' connectivity assets. Equally important is the engagement of local businesses, startups, community and residents. The Smart Docklands initiative is the result of a significant collaboration between Dublin City Council and the CONNECT Centre (Trinity College Dublin), Ireland's Research Centre for Future Networks and communications, which is funded through Science Foundation Ireland (SFI).

Through the SmartImpact project we have developed a local action plan that sets out the governance structure that underpins the Smart Docklands programme ensuring its successful delivery and the collaboration model that brings together core stakeholders in the process. It also sets objectives, many of which have been achieved over the past two years, and the next phase of the project delivery from 2018-2020.

Smart Impact provided access to expert advice on smart city development and seed funding that ensured that the trajectory of the project was integrated and focused on the wider community benefits, and not solely technology driven. Applying an integrated approach to the project it enabled DCC to bring together important partners across the city's tech ecosystem. We were strongly supported locally by Google and have developed collaborations with Intel, IBM, Softbank, Vodafone, AT&T, Accenture, Deloitte and others.

Through engagement with multiple stakeholders in the Docklands, a number of Work Streams emerged as the basis of the action plan

- 1. Establishing a governance model & securing leadership support**
- 2. Engagement – connecting the ecosystem**
- 3. Setting the base line- identifying existing and new use cases**
- 4. Connectivity – the foundation of a smart city**
- 5. Building the brand**
- 6. Data governance and new business models**

The results of the action plan can be viewed on www.smartdocklands.ie