

CORK CITY DOCKLANDS REGENERATION NOW ON STREAM

The partnership between Cork City Council and the Land Development Agency in setting up the new Delivery Office for Cork City Docklands will seek to promote a regeneration project of international scale and significance in Cork City.

Plans to develop Cork City Docklands over the next two decades by Cork City Council, in partnership with the Land Development Agency (LDA), will see the largest regeneration project in the country.

Funded by the LDA and Cork City Council, with substantial funding sought from the Government under the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF), the Delivery Office will be tasked with removing obstacles to development, and co-ordinating stakeholder engagement and consultation.

It is intended that the office will build an internationally recognised brand for the Cork City Docklands, to act as a magnet for major inward investment projects, similar to the IFSC in Dublin, and across Europe, such as Hammarby in Stockholm, Aarhus in Denmark, and Hafencity in Germany.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENTS

Projects which are being examined by the partnership include developments at Marina Park, further embracing the River Lee as an amenity, and the improvement of transport with the development of a transport hub at Kent Station.

A priority will be given to sustainable and active transport along with a mix of amenity and transport infrastructure. These include homes, schools, medical and social services, sports and recreation facilities, office space, pubs, bars, restaurants, hotels retail and two new bridges for the city.

Sustainable development and access to public transport links will be at the heart of the project. The Delivery Office will be guided by a steering group led by the CEOs of Cork City Council and the LDA and will involve a range of state bodies and local stakeholders.

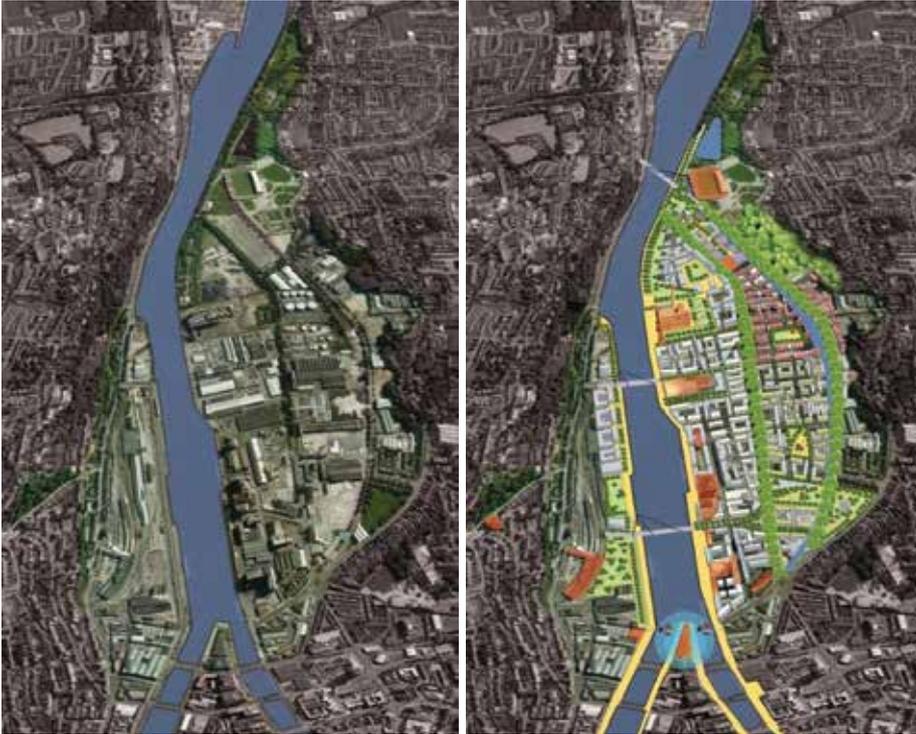
The LDA and Cork City Council will begin the search for a Programme Manager immediately, to lead the Cork Docklands Delivery Office. The Docklands area is already seeing extensive development; 82,475 sqm of office development is in construction or completed with over 12,000 sqm in the planning process. Over 1,600 residential units are currently in the planning process in the area; 136 hotel rooms are constructed or in construction with 265 rooms seeking planning.

DRIVING ECONOMIC GROWTH

During the first 12 months of operation, it is intended that the new Docklands Delivery Office will review all existing plans, meet key landowners and stakeholders and develop an ambitious five-year strategy.

CLlr Joe Kavanagh, Lord Mayor of Cork, described the development as “a major

CORK CITY DOCKLANDS



Over 146ha of land will be developed over a 20-year period to accommodate a population of c.25,000 and a workforce of c.29,000 along with a student population of c.3,700.

step forward” in unlocking the potential of Cork City Docklands. “The city is poised to be a key driver of Ireland’s economic growth to 2040. In the National Planning Framework, the Government set a range of targets for Cork to ensure that it can deliver this ambition.

“The population of Cork City is targeted to grow by 50% by 2040. This will strengthen Cork as a city of scale, whose citizens can enjoy the benefit of significant economic expansion.”

An Taoiseach, Micheál Martin TD, said that the redevelopment of the Docklands will be a project of international significance, and a magnet for investment into Cork City, adding that it underlined this Government’s commitment to balanced regional development.

“The establishment of strong regional cities is a key aim of the National Planning Framework and will help create opportunities for people across the island. Cork City Council and the Land Development Agency will bring many partners together for the benefit of the city. The scale of ambition will drive investment and leverage new opportunities for Cork.”

URBAN REGENERATION

According to the Minister for Housing, Local Government & Heritage, Darragh O’Brien TD, the LDA’s partnership with Cork City Council is “an exemplar of how the LDA and local authorities can deliver projects, making a real difference to our cities and citizens”.

Ann Doherty, Chief Executive

of Cork City Council, said Cork Docklands represents the most exciting urban regeneration site in Ireland and Europe and is a key component of the development strategy for Cork City.

“This is another milestone in our vision to develop Cork City Docklands as one of the best places in Europe to live and work. Cork City Council and the LDA will work in partnership with government departments, state agencies, local representative organisations and community and voluntary groups to achieve the exciting development objectives for Cork Docklands.”

From the LDA’s perspective, Chief Executive John Coleman said their mission is to work with local authorities and others to facilitate the development of housing and urban regeneration projects. “Across the country, we are working with local authorities to unlock the potential of state-owned lands and other strategic sites to increase the supply of affordable housing in Ireland.

“We’re confident that the team, which will be put in place, will write a new chapter in the history of this city. It is rare to have such an opportunity in a modern city to create an attractive live-work proposition on this scale,” Coleman noted. He added that the initiative was a major demonstration of the LDA’s commitment to advancing the scale and development of Cork in collaboration with Cork City Council.



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