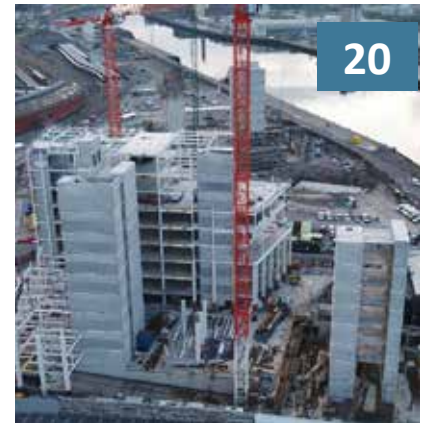


# CONTENTS

Winter 2020



## 4 NEWS UPDATE

### 13 SOCIAL HOUSING EXCHANGE

A UK online home exchange service which has landed in Dublin and Cork to enable council tenants in both cities to swap properties for free, plans to roll out the scheme to all social tenants in Ireland during 2021.

### 14 BUDGET 2021

With over €5.1bn allocated to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in Budget 2021, €3.1bn has been ear-marked for the social housing sector, representing a major 24% increase of €733m on last year's Budget.

### 20 CORK CITY DOCKLANDS

Ireland's largest regeneration project – the Cork City Docklands – will see the development of thousands of homes and the creation of a new urban centre for international investment in the city over the next two decades.

### 24 CLIMATE CHANGE

A radical shift in gear is required to meet Ireland's climate targets for 2030, according to Prof John Fitzgerald, Chair of the Climate Change Advisory Council. He says that the policy focus must be on delivering cost-effective, socially sustainable and environmentally compatible measures to achieve decarbonisation and climate resilience by 2050.

### 29 LOCAL GOVERNMENT AWARDS

Mayo County Council made its mark at the Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards by winning the 'Local

Authority of the Year' award for 2020, in addition to a hat-trick of category wins, while it was also shortlisted in two other categories.

### 35 PLANNING REGULATIONS

Over the next six years the Office of the Planning Regulator (OPR) will evaluate close to 200 draft plans from around the country to measure how well they are aligned with existing planning policy and regulatory requirements.

### 38 INNOVATION IN POLITICS AWARDS

County councils from Clare, Fingal, Meath and South Dublin were the four Irish finalists in the European Innovation in Politics Awards for 2020, for projects ranging from age-friendly housing, urban rejuvenation to community arts and playground facilities.

### 43 FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

Fingal County Council's new €767m Capital Programme (2021-2023) has set out significant investment on projects in North County Dublin, with a strong emphasis on housing, active travel measures and expanding greenway infrastructure over the next three years.

### 47 WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

A key strategic goal of Wicklow County Council's Corporate Plan 2019-2024 is to focus on an excellent service delivery by promoting inclusivity and efficiency for all users. A major part of this plan has been the development of the Customer Service Hub, which is now fully operational since October 2020.





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## 48 LOCAL DEVELOPMENT NETWORK

The Irish Local Development Network's five-year strategic plan aims to enable the local development sector to support rural and urban communities, and also takes account of the Covid-19 challenge, which has seen over 2,200 individuals daily seeking the assistance of local development companies nationwide.

## 54 DISTRICT HEATING NETWORK

South Dublin County Council's Tallaght District Heating Scheme will be the first large-scale district heating network of its kind in Ireland, which aims to reduce carbon emissions in the area by almost 1,500 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> each year.

## 57 SOUTH DUBLIN - ADAMSTOWN SDZ

Work is now underway on three significant infrastructure projects at the Adamstown Strategic Development Zone (SDZ) in South Dublin, with the €20m development due for completion in 2022.

## 59 DODDER VALLEY GREENWAY

The 14km Dodder Valley Greenway in South Dublin, which aims to be on a par with the best greenways in the world upon completion, will provide a unique combination of off-road and on-road facilities to utilise existing amenities within the area.

## 60 SEAI ENERGY AWARDS

Dublin City Council, NUI Galway and SSE Airtricity Energy Services were among the winners of the 2020 SEAI Energy Awards, announced by the Sustainable Energy Authority of

Ireland (SEAI) during an online awards ceremony at the end of October.

## 62 EU WORKPLACE INNOVATION

Cork City Council is one of four consortium partners of the European 'Start at Best' project, which is funding workplace innovation practices to support and drive competitiveness across the SME sector. Five Irish SMEs received grant-aid under this 'Horizon 2020' project to support their own initiatives.

## 67 EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT

Local authorities place a great emphasis on future planning to improve the quality of life for everyone. This sense of community within the workplace should be as equally important for all council employees, notes James Scott, CEO of tech communications company Thrive.

## 71 NORTH-WEST PARTNERSHIP

The importance of cross-border collaboration to deal with the challenges of Covid-19 and Brexit and to deliver on the planned regional growth projects were outlined at a recent virtual North-West Strategic Growth Partnership meeting.

## 72 ELECTRONIC VOTING SURVEY

The majority of Irish people favour electronic voting from home in future elections and referenda, in addition to the introduction of a national identity card, according to the findings of a nationwide survey by the Science Foundation Ireland Research Centre for Software.

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