



City Innovation Snapshot DUBLIN, Ireland

Overview

- **Lord Mayor:** Hazel Chu
- **Term:** 2020–2021
- **Innovation Lead:** Jamie Cudden
- **Population size:** 554 554 (2016)
- **Innovation / open data website:** data.smartdublin.ie
trello.com/b/18809azF/smарт-dublin-project-board

What is the organisational structure?

Situated in the City Manager's office, Dublin's Smart City team is currently building an Innovation Network with approximately 300 members across the organisation so that staff members from different departments can effectively share their experiences and knowledge.

Staff skills and profiles include:

- Project Manager
- Data / Environmental Scientist
- Geographic Information System
- Engineer
- Information Technology (IT)
- Community Engagement



Spotlight | Small Business Innovation Research

In partnership with Enterprise Ireland, Dublin has engaged in a number of Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) challenges—a mechanism that enables the city to connect with technology businesses in search of innovative solutions to city challenges. The initiative has awarded 42 innovation contracts and over €1.5 million funding to start-ups and SMEs. One of the SBIR projects, See.Sense, developed a bike light using sensor technology that gathers data on road surface quality, most frequently used routes and near-miss incidents in order to improve the cycling experience in Dublin. The project is currently in its second trial, collecting more data from additional participants and helping to inform the city's decision-making on new cycling infrastructure plans.

What is the city's innovation vision?

Like 50% of cities surveyed, Dublin has no formal innovation strategy.

The city most closely associates innovation capacity with:

- Experimentation, pilots and prototyping
- Technological innovation

What is the city's innovation approach?

Similar to 24% of cities surveyed, Dublin approaches innovation capacity in specific policy areas.

The top two priority policy areas for the city's innovation work are:

Transport/
mobility

Economic
Development

What innovation partnerships exist?

Dublin has developed partnerships to promote innovation capacity with other public agencies, private firms, and not-for-profit organisations.

To improve data use, the city has also developed data partnerships with the private sector, private philanthropy, academia and think tanks, to collect and analyse data, as well as with other cities.



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What funding is available?

Like 81% of cities surveyed, Dublin has dedicated funding to support innovation capacity, which comes from the following sources:

- International/multilateral institution budget
- Higher levels of government
- Municipal budget (operating budget / special funding process)
- External (non-public) funding (philanthropic or non-profit / academic or think tank resources)
- Non-financial: other in-kind contributions

Dublin's funding for innovation capacity is generally directed towards investing in physical infrastructure, supporting pilots and securing additional funding opportunities.



How is innovation helping the city?

- ✓ Improving service delivery
- ✓ Anticipating and managing future challenges
- ✓ Gaining efficiency within the public sector

The most critical success factors in supporting the city's innovation work are dedicated funding, a dedicated innovation team and leadership from the Dublin City Chief Executive.



How is data used?

Dublin does not currently optimise the use of data to its full potential to align its budget process with its strategic priorities. Challenges preventing the use of data to support innovation goals include a lack of technical infrastructure, insufficient interaction with data producers and limited compatibility of data across policy areas. Dublin also reports that data collection and analysis is not an institutional priority and that local government data is held by individual departments in silos. The Innovation Network and the Smart City programme encourage cross-departmental engagement and collaboration and data sharing.

Dublin publishes open data to Dublinked, Smart Dublin's Open Data Portal, which is harvested by Ireland's National Open Data Portal and by the EU Open Data Portal.



How are outcomes measured?

Policy areas with sufficient data or without sufficient data to support innovation capacity in the city.

Transport / Mobility	Economic Development	Housing	Policing and Law Enforcement	Health
Government Finance	Waste and Sewage	Labour Market and Skills	Environment and Climate Change	Education
Culture	Social Inclusion, Equity	Public Works	Tourism	Digital Governance

NB: No response provided by the city for the policy areas in grey. Data are managed at national government level.