IDEA Submission to

Dublin City Council Development Plan 2022-2028

1. Introduction

The Irish Development Education Association (IDEA) is the national network for Development Education[1] in Ireland and a leading voice for the sector. Our vision is for a world where all people are active global citizens.

We represent over 80 members involved in the practice, promotion, and advancement of Development Education in formal, non-formal and informal settings. Together we work to strengthen Development Education in Ireland and to raise awareness of the crucial role it has in fostering global citizenship and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

Development Education/Global Citizen Education enables people to understand the world around them and to act to transform it. It works to tackle the root causes of injustice and inequality, globally and locally, to create a more just and sustainable future for everyone. By strengthening global citizenship, sustainability, democracy and human rights, Development Education is at the heart of society's response to the challenges we face

Development Education/Global Citizen Education is practised by a range of actors, including Development NGOs, community and voluntary organisations, educational institutions and networks, trade unions, educators, researchers and activists, and takes place in formal, non-formal and informal settings, engaging hundreds of thousands of people across all ages and communities throughout the island of Ireland each year.

[1] **Please note that Development Education is used here as an 'umbrella' term that encompasses Global Citizenship Education and Education for Sustainable Development.**

2. Local Authority Development Plans and the SDGs

The seminal role of the Local Authorities in raising the awareness of the general public and community groups to the SDG process and how it can improve their quality of life and wider environment is underlined in The SDG National Implementation Plan 2018 – 2020.

> The local government system, led by the 31 City and County Councils as well as coordinated through the three Regional Assemblies, also has a crucial role to play in translating national policies into tangible practical actions that can help to concretise the SDG objectives into our individual and communities' behaviours and goals.
>
> Through structures such as the Local Community Development Committees (LCDCs), Strategic Policy Committees (SPCs) as well as through development plans and local economic and community plans which set the future local and community development direction and priorities for each city and county, local authorities are well placed to integrate high-level SDG objectives and targets into their various plans and programmes.
>
> Public Participation Networks (PPNs) can also play an important role in this process through their engagement with all aspects of local government. They can also raise the awareness of the general public and community groups to the SDG process and how it can improve their quality of life and wider environment.

Similarly, the Irish Aid Global Citizenship Education Strategy published in December 2021 references the importance of Local Authorities including global citizenship themes in City and County Development Plans and building on their work with Public Participation Networks.

3. Dublin City Draft Development Plan and Sustainable Development Goals

The Dublin City Development Plan sets out a vision and framework for the City over the next six years. We believe that vision must be strongly aligned with the overall vision of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

We welcome that the Dublin City Draft Development Plan references the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the opening chapter. We further welcome the strong commitment to tackling climate change throughout the Plan.

While acknowledging that the SDGs are referenced within the overall policy framework, we are disappointed that this is the only reference to the SDGs throughout the document. Moreover, the Draft Development Plan does not include a specific commitment to work towards the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. A number of City and County Development Plans have explicitly made this commitment (e.g., Dun Laoghaire, Fingal, Waterford and Cork)

We believe that there is a real opportunity for Dublin City Council to explicitly state their commitment to working towards the achievement of the SDGs and to communicating these goals to the citizens of Dublin in conjunction with the Public Participation Network.

We would therefore propose the following two amendments to the Draft Plan and request Dublin City Council to incorporate these into the final plan.

4. Proposed Amendments to the Dublin City Development Plan.

1. Insert the following policy objective (or similar) into Chapter One Strategic Context and Vision

It is a Policy Objective of the Dublin City Council to contribute towards the achievement of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Specifically, the Draft Plan will seek to ensure alignment with the UN Sustainable Development Goals in areas such as climate action, clean energy and water, sustainable cities and communities, decent work and economic growth, reduced inequalities, gender equality, innovation and infrastructure, education and health

2. Insert following Policy Objective (or similar) in Chapter Five Sustainable Neighbourhoods

(5.5.3) Healthy Placemaking and the 15-minute city

It is a policy objective of Dublin City Council to work with the Dublin City Public Participation Network in communicating how local businesses, communities and individuals can work towards the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 and in supporting initiatives on education for sustainable development.



02/02/2022