

An aerial photograph of Cork City, Ireland, showing a dense urban area with residential and commercial buildings. A large, semi-transparent number '1' is overlaid on the right side of the image. The text 'CHAPTER 1' is positioned above the main title.

CHAPTER 1

Introduction

The Cork City Development Plan 2004 sets out Cork City Council's policies for the development of Cork City to late 2009.

Introduction	2
Overall Goals	2
Strategic Aims	3
Structure of the Development Plan	4
Local Planning	4

Introduction

- 1.1** The Cork City Development Plan 2004 sets out Cork City Council's policies for the development of Cork City to late 2009. It has been developed following a period of intensive consultation on issues to be included in the Plan which took the form of public meetings and workshops, meetings with stakeholders and service providers, written submissions and seminars for elected representatives.
- 1.2** The Plan is set within the strategic framework established by the *Cork Area Strategic Plan 2001–2020* (CASP). It also takes account of the Cork City Development Board's *Imagine Our Future: Integrated Strategy for Economic, Social and Cultural Development of Cork City 2002–2012*, and a range of other local strategies and plans.
- 1.3** It has been prepared having regard to relevant National plans, policies and guidelines that impact on proper planning and sustainable development. The main ones are:
- *The National Development Plan* (2006–2010) which aims for balanced regional development and identifies Cork as a national gateway;
 - *The National Spatial Strategy* (2002–2020) which provides a spatial planning framework for the Country and reinforces Cork's role as a national gateway;
 - *Sustainable Development: A Strategy for Ireland, 1997*, which provides a framework for the achievement of sustainable development at a local level;
 - *The National Anti-Poverty Strategy* (1997–2007) which promotes social inclusion;
 - Ministerial Guidelines and Directives including those on Housing Strategies, Retail Planning, Childcare, Residential Density and Architectural Conservation.

Overall Goals

- 1.4** The Plan outlines Cork City Council's policies for improving the social, economic, cultural and environmental health of the City both through direct action and in conjunction with state, private and community sectors. It is based on three fundamental and interrelated goals, which underlie all the policies contained in the Plan:
- To promote and provide for the sustainable development of Cork City enabling it to fulfil its role as a National Gateway City.**
- 1.5** This goal seeks to promote the social and economic development of Cork City in a balanced and sustainable way. This will involve measures to promote a range of commercial, industrial and cultural developments, to increase housing provision and reverse the decline in population, to regenerate the City Centre, Docklands and other parts of the City and to develop a sustainable transport system.
- To promote social inclusion and to facilitate equality of access to employment, education, transport, suitable housing and social and cultural activities.**
- 1.6** The promotion of Social Inclusion is a core goal of the City Council's *Corporate Plan*. The Council is committed to ensuring that policies and actions will contribute positively to social inclusion and to meeting the requirements of the *National Anti-Poverty Strategy*. The objective is to ensure that social inclusion considerations are addressed in all major policies in this Plan.
- To provide for a high quality natural and built environment and improved quality of life for those living and working in and visiting Cork City.**
- 1.7** The attractiveness of the City is to a large degree dependent upon the quality and character of the environment – the buildings, the public realm, the amenity spaces and the natural heritage. A good quality environment is extremely important to the City for reasons of quality of life and economic prosperity. The City Council will therefore introduce a range of measures in this Plan to ensure a high quality built and natural environment for the City.



Strategic Aims

A more specific set of Strategic Aims setting out what the Plan intends to achieve has been developed from these overall goals. These Strategic Aims will be realised through a series of integrated strategies detailed in the Plan. The Strategic Aims are:

1.8

- To facilitate the future development of Cork City within the integrated land use and transportation framework set out in the *Cork Area Strategic Plan 2001–2020 (CASP)*.
- To promote balanced and sustainable economic development and employment within the City, ensuring that a diverse range of economic sectors is developed and supported.
- To develop an integrated transport strategy, linked to land use objectives, which facilitates access to a range of transport modes and provides real transport choice.
- To facilitate access to a range of social and community facilities for citizens, in particular access to housing to suit different household and tenure needs.
- To minimise the adverse impacts of development on the environment through policies for the management of wastes and emissions and the promotion of energy conservation.
- To promote a high quality built environment through measures to protect the built and archaeological heritage and to promote high quality urban design.
- To protect and enhance the natural environment and provide high quality, accessible recreational facilities.
- To promote the regeneration of the City Centre and Docklands and the renewal of inner city residential areas, allowing the City Centre to retain and expand its role as the commercial and cultural heart of the region.
- To promote the sustainable development of the 'out of centre' suburban parts of the City for a range of residential, services and employment opportunities.
- To ensure the orderly development of the City through the setting out of development control policies and standards for a range of development types.

Structure of the Development Plan

- 1.9** The Development Plan is presented in two volumes. Volume 1 is the Main Strategy and Volume 2 is the Record of Protected Structures.
- 1.10** The layout of Volume 1, the Main Strategy, is closely related to the aims outlined above. Chapter 2 sets out the sub-regional strategic framework within which the City Development Plan sits. The following six chapters set out policies and actions under a range of topic headings:
- Enterprise and Employment
 - Transportation
 - Social Issues and Housing
 - Built Environment and Urban Design
 - Environmental Management
 - Natural Heritage and Recreation
- 1.11** Chapters 9 and 10 detail area-specific policies, particularly those relating to land-use zoning and development objectives in:
- City Centre and Docklands
 - Suburban areas
- 1.12** The area based policies need to be read in conjunction with the topic based policies referred to above and with Chapter 11: Development Control Standards which follows on from them. An environmental appraisal of the main policies in the Plan forms the final chapter.
- 1.13** There is one appendix to the Plan, the *Cork Authorities Joint Housing Strategy*, which comes in a separate document and is unchanged from that adopted by the Cork Local Authorities in 2001, but reviewed and where appropriate updated in Chapter 5 of this Plan.

Local Planning

- 1.14** Where appropriate, the policies in the City Development Plan will be developed in more detail at a local level through Local Area Plans, Area Action Plans and Development Briefs. Priority areas for local plans include the North and South Docks. Other areas which may need to be considered for either a local area plan or an action plan include inner city areas such as the South Parish and the areas around the University/the Mardyke/North Mall Distillery; and suburban areas such as Knocknaheeny and Blackpool. Action Plans and Development Briefs for smaller areas coming up for development such as the Togher NBA flats and for landscape/ridge protection zones will also be considered. These areas are selected based on the need for regeneration and renewal, the potential for significant amounts of new development or the need for landscape protection. Local planning will be set within the context of the City Development Plan and will involve extensive consultation with local stakeholders. A programme for preparation of local plans and strategies will be developed following on from preparation of the Development Plan.