



A STRONG VOICE FOR BUSINESS



MISSION

Representing the 1,000 companies, 26,000 employees and 5,000 residents in Sandyford Business District, the company steadfastly lobbies on behalf of its constituents and provides a strong voice to champion issues that impact business.

Sandyford Business District engages, liaises and collaborates with its local council, Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council, on all matters relating to the district including infrastructure, mobility, public realm and landscaping.

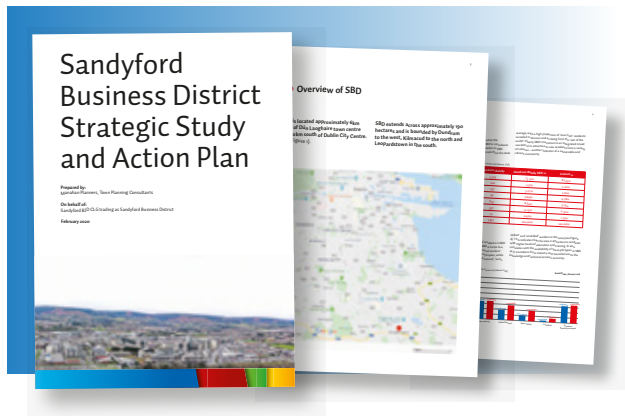
This important partnership is further strengthened with representation on the twelve-person board by two representatives from the council – a senior executive and a nominated councillor. Importantly, the District engages at national government level particularly in relation to business supports, never more so than during the current Covid-19 pandemic, and makes submissions on major issues relating to finance, infrastructure, mobility and planning.

Mobility being a key issue for the district, there is regular engagement with TII (Transport Infrastructure Ireland) and TFI (Transport for Ireland) on matters relating to road infrastructure and public transport.



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Dlr County Development Plan 2022-2028



In mid-2019, SBD formed a CDP Steering Group comprising board members, stakeholders and consultants to prepare a comprehensive submission in readiness for the public consultation process in early 2020 on the Pre-Draft plan. SBD held a series of workshops with stakeholders to ensure the views of businesses in the district would be represented and this research informed the submission.

In February 2020, the 'Sandyford Business District Strategic Study and Action Plan' was submitted to Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council to ensure SBD's vision for the district will be taken into consideration at the outset of the consultation process with the council. The CDP Steering Group is currently finalising its submission to the final Draft plan which is due for submission by 16th April 2021.

Commercial Rates 2021



A key role of Sandyford Business District lobbying activities is to regularly engage with Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council re Commercial Rates for businesses in the area. Sandyford Business District contacted elected representatives and council executives in relation to Local Property Tax 2021 to ensure that the 15% reduction, agreed every year, would not be approved as it impacted on Commercial Rates. The Council met in September to consider varying the basic rate of LPT and as no decision was made to vary the rate it reverted to the basic rate by default. Subsequently, Sandyford Business District connected with elected representatives in relation to Commercial rates for 2021. The LPT outcome was a key factor in ensuring that when the council's budget for 2021 was approved in December 2020, it was agreed that there would be NO increase in Commercial Rates for 2021.

Budget 2021 Submission To Government



Sandyford Business District submitted a number of innovative suggestions which it encouraged Government to implement in order to offset the worst impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic on member businesses. The 14-page submission included recommendations on the following topics:

- Covid-19, Vaccine/Anti-viral treatments
- Creating the right environment for businesses post Covid-19
- Brexit
- Taxation
- Employment
- Online Businesses
- Insurance Costs
- Enhancing the Environment
- Motoring
- Law and Order
- Home Renovation Incentive Scheme



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Bus Connects Submission



The Bus Connect proposal set out an upscaling of bus services which is believed will improve the public transport offering and reduce dependence on private journeys.

Sandyford Business District commissioned an in-depth submission based on local travel demand patterns and experience within the Sandyford Business District area. CTS Group, on behalf of Sandyford Business District, compiled our submission after consultation with businesses in the area including Microsoft, Vodafone, Beacon Hospital and Central Park to request greater availability of public transport.

Luas



We wrote to Transport Infrastructure Ireland, highlighting the continued development of Sandyford Business District and the issues faced by commuters traveling by public transport.

In the longer term, the NTA has recently announced plans to replace the Luas Green Line between Sandyford and Charlemont with a metro service, as part of the Metro Link project.

Sandyford Business District continues to engage in relation to LUAS services and the new METROLINK and will keep businesses up to date with all developments.

Metrolink Submission



Sandyford Business District commissioned Roughan & O'Donovan to prepare a submission in May re the proposed high-capacity, high-frequency rail line running from Swords to Charlemont - linking Dublin Airport, Irish Rail, Dart, Dublin Bus and Luas Services - creating fully integrated public transport in the Greater Dublin Area. Much of the 19 kilometre route will run underground, a major innovation for Irish public transport. Metrolink will carry up to 50 million passengers annually dramatically reducing journey times to Dublin Airport.



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Cycle Review Dlrcc Submission



Sandyford Business District commissioned a comprehensive Cycle & Pedestrian Survey which was carried out by Roughan & O'Donovan and PMCE Consultants.

Principal issues of concern are:

- Discontinuous or absent cycle facilities
- Issues at junctions and enforcement and maintenance issues
- Several areas were identified as priority routes and many local issues were noted.

The comprehensive survey was forwarded to DLRCC which has acknowledged this report and agreed to take it into account in relation to the construction of future roads and footpaths.

Dublin Climate Action Plan Submission



Sandyford Business District (SBD) commissioned Roughan & O'Donovan to prepare a submission to Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council. SBD is broadly supportive of the Climate Change Action Plan with a particular interest in a number of the proposed actions.

The submission, made on 22nd March 2019, addressed each of these in turn along with making general recommendations including:

- Develop and extend cycle network
- Develop and expand the County walking network strategy
- Expand electric vehicle network in the County
- Expand bus network in the County
- Develop County bike sharing scheme
- Implement public open space and parks
- Cycle parking in public realm
- 30km/hr speed limits

Stillorgan Reservoir Lobbying



Irish Water are working on a major €80m scheme to remove the open storage reservoir and replace it with a covered reservoir of 160ML storage capacity. Plans include tree and meadow/hydro grasses planting on the roof of the reservoir as part of the landscaping project to create a 'visual amenity' on the 20 acre site which will be closed to the public. Sandyford Business District deem this public amenity space should be accessible to the 40,000 residents living within 3km of the reservoir and the 26,000 employees working in the district. To gain access to a section of the site, the board and Chief Executive have conducted an extensive lobbying campaign which included hosting a public meeting and engaging in numerous consultations with key public representatives including Minister Eoghan Murphy and Minister Josepha Madigan.