Dublin 8 Consortium

Profile of Social Enterprises in Dublin 8

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1. Introduction

1.1 THE DUBLIN 8 CONSORTIUM

The Dublin 8 Consortium ('the Consortium') was formed in 2019, and is a consortium of stakeholders, led by Dublin City Council, with the objective of maximising the opportunities for social enterprise activity in the Dublin 8 area. It draws together existing support organisations and social enterprises in order to add value to the sector in Dublin 8 through collaboration, strategic action and advocacy. Its membership includes Dublin City Council, Dublin City Local Enterprise Office, Inner City Enterprise, Dublin South City Partnership, the F2 Social Enterprise Board, Dublin Inner City Community Co-op and the new children's hospital.

The Consortium's a social enterprise development strategy for Dublin 8 (2020-2022) includes the following strategic objective:

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1
We will identify the status of the social enterprise sector in the Dublin 8 area, its needs and its social and economic impact

This mapping exercise is undertaken under the auspices of this strategic objective.

1.2 THE SURVEY

In order to map the social enterprise sector, the Consortium commissioned Method Consultants to carry out a survey of social enterprises. The survey was undertaken between September and October 2020.

A database of recipients was the devised. Because social enterprise could potentially apply to a wide range of organisations, and is also a concept open to wide interpretation, a set of criteria was developed which provided the rationale for groups' inclusion in the database.

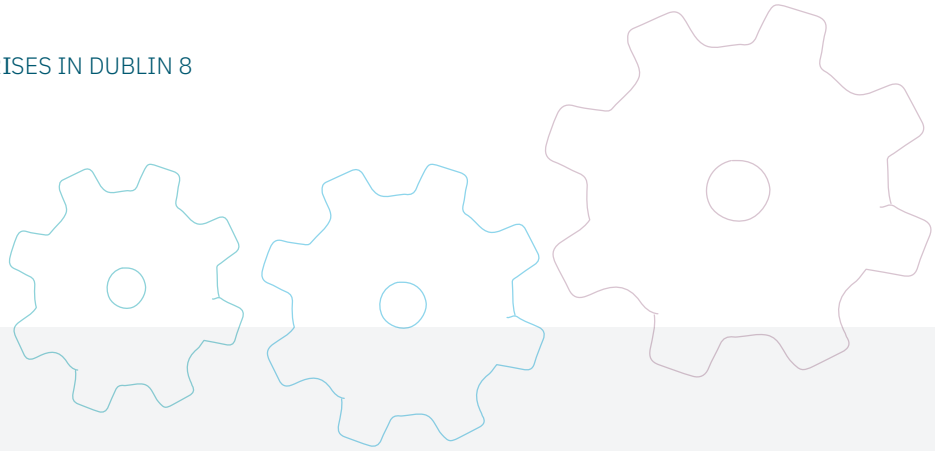
The National Social Enterprise Policy for Ireland 2019-2022 definition of social enterprise was used:

> A Social Enterprise is an enterprise whose objective is to achieve a social, societal or environmental impact, rather than maximising profit for its owners or shareholders.
>
> It pursues its objectives by trading on an ongoing basis through the provision of goods and/or services, and by reinvesting surpluses into achieving social objectives.
>
> It is governed in a fully accountable and transparent manner and is independent of the public sector. If dissolved, it should transfer its assets to another organisation with a similar mission.

In addition, the broad criteria for inclusion on the survey database were that organisations would:

- Be located in the area, and also operate for the benefit of county Dublin 8[1]
- Have an objective to tackle disadvantage (whether explicit or implied)
- Be distinct from the state in terms of its structure (i.e. not a statutory agency)
- Generally, be separate in structure from a national organisation (i.e., not be part of a national charity, but could have a national focus)
- Not be part of an existing support structure (e.g., credit unions while part of the social enterprise sector, would not be the target of this survey given that they are supported by their own structure and their activities are not the focus of the D8 Consortium).
- Have an ongoing traded income – while some start-up and pre-trading social enterprises were included, the intention here was that organisations with occasional trading activities would not be the focus of the survey.
- Not privately owned (other than if a subsidiary of a social enterprise).

1 *In other words, simply being based in the area was not enough - the organisation would have to trade for the benefit of the area, but it would not need to be for the exclusive benefit of Co Dublin 8*



Community organisations involved in the following activities were among those included:

- Community centres (that generate traded income on a consistent basis)
- Community enterprise centres and community enterprise support organisations
- Childcare services
- Green economy and recycling initiatives
- Community retail / markets (other than charity shops)
- Training and education initiatives
- Media and publications
- Social finance provision
- Arts activities
- Housing services (not national housing associations)
- Health and wellbeing services

There was a degree of flexibility in applying the criteria and organisations were included on a case-by-case basis, if they were considered to be relevant to the strategy and the work of the Consortium.

1.3 ADMINISTRATION OF THE SURVEY AND RESPONSE RATE

An online survey was developed and circulated to 38 recipients. Of these, 35 eligible organisations were included in the analysis. There were 24 eligible responses to the survey (69% response rate).

The survey's main target recipients were managers of the social enterprises, and managers or equivalent senior roles (e.g. CEOs, Project Leader) formed the majority of respondents (79%). Directors or governance structure members accounted for 21% of respondents.

The survey's main subject areas included legal and organisation structure; volunteers and employees; activities and objectives; turnover and finances; challenges, support needs and sustainability. Each recipient was telephoned prior to, and following receipt of the survey by the consortium members, and in some cases Method, in order to secure buy-in and to generate a high response rate.

The findings are presented below under each of the themes explored in the survey.

2. Legal structure, governance and volunteers

2.1 AGE OF SOCIAL ENTERPRISES

The social enterprises surveyed tended to be relatively long-established organisations: half were trading for over ten years. However a significant proportion had not yet started to trade (16.7%).

Table 2.1 When did your social enterprise start trading?

Response options	%	N
Pre-start up - not yet trading	16.67%	4
Trading less than 1 year	4.17%	1
Trading for 1 - 2 years	8.33%	2
Trading for 3 - 4 years	8.33%	2
Trading for 5 - 9 years	12.50%	3
Trading 10 years or more	50.00%	12

2.2 LEGAL STRUCTURE

Three quarters (75%) of respondents were incorporated as a company limited by guarantee (without share capital). The remainder were either a co-operative (1 respondent), were unincorporated (3 respondents) or selected other. Of those that selected 'other', one was a 'partnership' and one was described as a 'charity'.

Table 2.2 What is your legal structure?

Response options	%	N
Company limited by guarantee	75.0%	18
Co-operative (Industrial and Provident Society)	4.2%	1
Company Limited by Share	0.0%	0
No legal structure (unincorporated)	12.5%	3
Other (please specify)	8.3%	2

2.3 ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

The majority of respondents identified as stand alone local organisations, with just over one-quarter was part of a larger, local organisation (25%). One organisation is part of a national organisation (4.2%).

Table 2.3 Is your social enterprise part of a 'parent' organisation?

Response options	%	N
No - we are stand alone and not part of any larger org	70.8%	17
Yes - we are part of a larger org that is local (i.e. Dublin 8 or surrounding area)	25.0%	6
Yes - we are part of a larger org that is national	4.2%	1
Yes - we are part of a larger org that is international	0.0%	0
Other (please specify)	0.0%	0

2.4 VOLUNTEERS ON GOVERNANCE STRUCTURES

Table 2.4 Do you have a voluntary board of directors or committee? (n=24)

Response options	%	N
Yes	87.50%	21
No	8.33%	2
Other	4.17%	1

87.5% of respondents operated under the auspices of a voluntary board or committee. Two respondents stated that they did not have a voluntary board/committee (although on deeper examination, it transpired that one was part of an overall structure that did, and the other one had a board as part of its legal structure of company limited by guarantee). One respondent selected 'other', and this operated as a partnership.

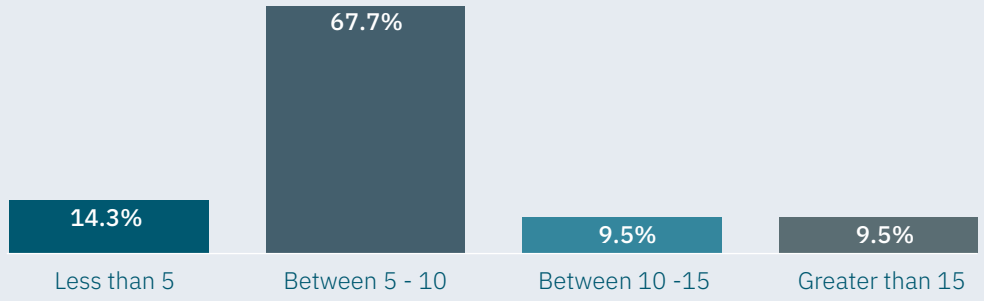
Respondents were asked to specify the number of volunteers in their organisation involved in governance structures and other activities.

In terms of those serving on board or committee structures, the category selected by the majority of groups was 'between 5 and 10' members, as outlined on the next page.[2]

2 *This issue of recruiting volunteers to governance structures is discussed below.*

Table 2.5 Number of volunteers serving on board/ committee(s)		
Response options	%	N
Less than five	14.29%	3
Between 5 - 10	66.67%	14
Between 10 - 15	9.52%	2
Greater than 15	9.52%	2

How many volunteers participate in these structures?



2.5 GENDER PROFILE OF GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

Respondents were asked to indicate the proportion of their board members who were male and female. 23 respondents answered the question. These were then analysed to ascertain how many respondents had majority male and majority female boards/ committees. The results are outlined below. They indicate a slightly higher proportion of respondents with a majority female board.

Table 2.6 Gender make-up of boards/committees		
Response options	N	%
Majority female	9	39.1%
Majority male	7	30.4%
Evenly balanced (50% male/female representation)	7	30.4%

3. Activities and Objectives

3.1 ACTIVITIES

The survey asked respondents to identify their activities by selecting two from a list provided. All of the activities on the list were selected by at least one respondent – with the exception of community transport (which is not surprising given the city location of Dublin 8).

The activities that generated the most responses were 'education and training' and 'other'. Respondents elaborated on 'other', and the main activities related financial (lending) services, market activities, arts activities, well-being and mental health support, and crafts.

Table 3.1 Which of the following best describes the activity that your social enterprise undertakes

Response options	%	N
Childcare (including pre-school and after-school services)	8.3%	2
Eldercare (including home care, meals and day care services)	12.5%	3
Sports and leisure activities	4.2%	1
Services for people with disabilities (e.g. targeted education, training and other services)	4.2%	1
Education and training services	25.0%	6
Tourism services and promotion	4.2%	1
Community centres	8.3%	2
Enterprise development and support (including enterprise centres)	8.3%	2
Re-use and recycling	4.2%	1
Environmental/ area enhancement (e.g. grass cutting, litter picking)	8.3%	2
Community transport	0.0%	0
Arts, culture and community media production	12.5%	3
Food and catering services (including community cafés)	8.3%	2
Retail	4.2%	1
Buildings maintenance and repairs services	12.5%	3
Other (financial services, market activities, arts activities, mental health/wellbeing services, and craft-related activities)	41.7%	10

3.2 OBJECTIVES

Respondents were asked to select from a list of possible objectives, the ones that best applied to them. They were asked to rank these in order in descending order (with the option ranked number 1 being the most relevant). Ranked responses were weighted and scored, and the table and figure below reporting the responses.[3]

The provision of services for the community and the provision of employment and training opportunities were the objectives with the highest scores in the weighting exercise.

Table 3.2 Objectives

Response options	Score
To provide services for our community	6.04
To create employment and training opportunities for our community	5.2
To generate income to support our social objectives and other activities	4.8
To generate income to support the social objectives and activities of others in our community	4.17
To support economic development in our community	4
To achieve environmental objectives	2.79
Other	2.21

3 *The scoring and marking of responses works as follows: a #1 choice (i.e. highest ranking objective) has a weight of 6. The #2 choice has a weight of 5. The #3 choice has a weight of 4, and so on until choice #6 (the lowest ranking objective) which has a weighting of 1. The score for each response is based on the average ranking score that it was given by survey respondents.*

3.3 PRIMARY CAUSE OR MAIN OBJECTIVE

Respondents were asked to describe their primary cause or main objective. This was an open-ended question, and a summary of responses is outlined below:

To provide accessible and affordable counselling and psychotherapy for anyone in Ireland

To encourage market culture in Dublin City through running quality, community-welcoming and enterprise encouraging markets.

...to inform, educate and entertain the Irish LGBTQ+ community....to represent the community to themselves and wider society.

To provide accessible education and employment opportunities for people from Dublin 8

To allow local people have a direct voice in the development of Dublin 8.

To empower people affected by homelessness to become professional walking tour guides of their towns and cities

To provide life enhancing exercise programmes to older adults and patient groups...to improve overall wellbeing....we promote the autonomy and wellbeing of older people and people with chronic disease, ensuring that everyone has the capacity and self-confidence necessary to live an independent and happy life.

We run a cafe

To facilitate economic development and provide employment and training opportunities for target groups in the community and generate revenue to reinvest into social programmes

To provide people with the opportunity to experience everything that the arts can offer..through arts education, music facilitation, collaborative community arts projects and a new early-years programme, [we] provide the community with the enjoyment, entertainment, reflection questioning and expression that the arts can offer."

To provide affordable property maintenance services to other community organisations while providing employment opportunities for people with criminal convictions.

To provide a safe and nurturing service to children aged 2 -5 years.

To provide a nutritious meal service to tackle isolation and loneliness experienced by senior citizens...where unemployed local people have the opportunity to train, up-skill and secure permanent employment.

To support young people who are out of education and employment....to allow young people develop both soft and hard skills need to find and retain meaningful employment.

To provide dedicated accommodation for residents groups who provide services, and to provide affordable and accessible meeting spaces for community and voluntary groups, organisations and individuals.

To restore bikes donated from a range of stakeholders, and to provide employment for people who are furthest away from the labour market due to addiction or involvement with the criminal justice system

To provide care and education to children (aged 18-months to 5 years)

To provide wholesome, affordable and sustainable food to our members and wider community.

To deliver an innovative housing option to ageing homeowners, as they plan ahead for retirement, whilst also delivering a sustainable housing solution to promote more efficient use of our existing housing stock, in light of unprecedented demand for housing in Ireland

To introduce native & bio-diverse forests to urban areas and their communities

To empower entrepreneurs to grow and scale their companies

To acquire premises for letting purposes to organisations in the non-profit sector and to provide training and education to those involved in the development of the non-profit sector

To educate and support young people and their families in the Dublin area on the importance of looking after their mental health. To prevent suicide and reduce stigma before problems become a crisis.

To contribute towards poverty reduction and community development by providing repayable loan finance to organisations that find it difficult to access finance through the mainstream financial institutions.

4. Employees and Workforce

4.1 EMPLOYEES

Survey respondents identified 122 individuals directly employed[4] by them, although a significant proportion of respondents (21% of respondents), employed no individuals (reflecting the number of start up social enterprises that participated). There were also 11 individuals identified as contractors.

Of those who employed staff (n=19), this indicates an average of just over 6 per respondent. However, the range was wide, with one respondent reporting 24 employees.

4.2 SOURCES OF FUNDING AND SUPPORT

16 respondents answered the question about sources of support for workers. In total, 129 workers[5] (including labour market programme placements) were identified. The sources of funding or support for workers identified are presented in Table 4.1 below. In total, 22 responses were generated (from 16 survey respondents) about sources of support (indicating that on average, there were 1.4 sources of support per respondent).

Traded income/own resources as a source of finance for employment accounted for 32% of all workers, and for 31.3% of all respondents.

Of the labour market programmes, Community Employment (CE) remains the most important source of support for workers (or trainees, in their case), accounting for 34 positions (26.6% of all positions) and accessed by 31.3% of respondents.

The Community Services Programme (CSP) supports 20 positions (15.5% of all positions) and is accessed by one quarter of respondents (25%).

4 Given the sources of funding identified for these employees, this number includes some of those funded under labour market training programmes, such as Community Employment.

5 The term worker is used rather than employee, as the findings suggest that CE and Tús worked were included and they would not be employees.

The Covid-19 wage subsidy scheme[6] supports 19 positions (14.7% of all) but is only accessed by two respondents – it is assumed that these positions were hitherto fully funded through traded income (or remain partially funded through traded income, and so could potentially be a sub-category of staff funded through traded income).[7]

Table 4.1 Sources of support for staff / workers (n=16)

Support	No individuals	% of all workers	No respondents	% of all respondents[8]
Community Services Programme (CSP)	20	15.5%	4	25.0%
Community Employment (CE)	34	26.4%	5	31.3%
Tús	1	0.8%	1	6.3%
Jobs Initiative	1	0.8%	1	6.3%
Covid-19 Wage subsidy scheme	19	14.7%	2	12.5%
Jobs Plus	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Traded income/ our own resources	42	32.6%	5	31.3%
Other programmes	12	9.3%	4	25.0%
Total	**129**		**22**	

6 *Since 31 August, this scheme has been replaced by the Employment Wage Subsidy Scheme (EWSS).*
7 *Note: the Covid-19 temporary wage subsidy scheme was provided to enable employers to keep staff on their payroll during the pandemic (including temporarily not working/ laid off, or employees on reduced hours/ reduced pay. The wage subsidy scheme did not apply to scheme participants or CSP-funded workers, and to this high number of people supported under this payment indicates that these workers were ordinarily paid through traded income.*
8 *This is expressed as a percentage of all survey respondents who accessed the source of support.*

4.3 TARGET GROUPS FOR EMPLOYMENT

Respondents were asked to rank, in order of importance, from a list provided, the groups that they target for employment. 15 respondents answered this question. The scores are based on a weighting of responses with those receiving the highest ranking awarded the highest score, and an average attained for all categories.[9] The long-term unemployed, early school-leavers, lone parents and drug users in recovery and received the highest ranks in total.

Table 4.2 Ranking of groups targeted for employment (weighted) (n=15)

Support	Score
Long-term unemployed	6.53
Drug users in recovery	5.31
Lone parents	4.77
Early school leavers	4.75
New communities (including refugees and asylum seekers)	4.5
People with criminal convictions	4.25
People with disabilities	4.18
Members of the Traveller community	3.09

9 *The scoring and marking of responses works as follows: a #1 choice (i.e. highest ranking target group) has a weight of 8 (as there are 8 option on the list). The #2 choice has a weight of 7. The #3 choice has a weight of 6, and so on until choice #8 (the least significant rank) which has a weighting of 1. The score for each response is based on the average ranking score that it was given by survey respondents.*

4.4 GENDER BALANCE OF EMPLOYEES

Respondents were asked to indicate the proportion of their workers who were male and female. 20 respondents answered the question. These were then analysed to ascertain how many respondents had majority male and majority female workforce. The results are outlined below. They indicate that a slightly higher number of respondents had a majority female workforce (45%, compared to 35% with a majority male workforce). 20% of respondents had an evenly balanced male/female workforce.

Table 4.3 Gender profile of respondents' employees (n=20)

Response options	%	N
Majority male	35%	7
Majority female	45%	9
Evenly balanced (50% male/female representation)	20%	4

4.5 PERCENTAGE OF STAFF FUNDED THROUGH GRANTS OR LABOUR MARKET SCHEMES

Table 4.1 (above) outlines the number of labour market programme funded positions across all social enterprises surveyed. In addition, respondents were also asked about the *percentage* of all positions in their social enterprises that were funded through labour market programmes.

While a significant number of trading social enterprises (with employees) relied entirely on grants and labour market programmes for funding all of their staff (23%), the majority of social enterprises (52.6%) relied on labour market programmes to fund less than 25% of the staff positions. This includes social enterprises which received no funding for staff.

Approximately, what % your workers are funded through grants or labour market programmes (e.g. CE, CSP, Tús)?

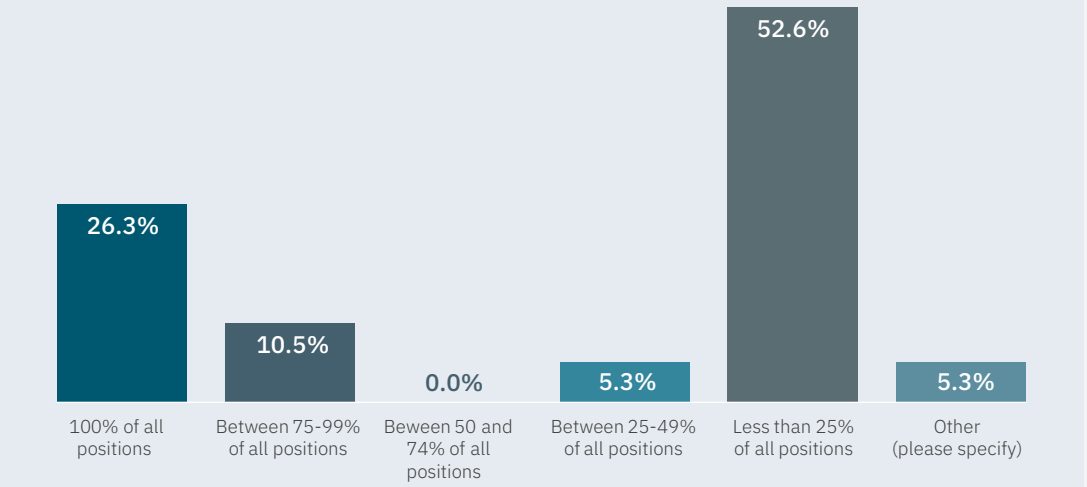


Table 4.4 Percentage of positions funded through grants or labour market schemes

Options	% of responses	No.
100% of our full-time equivalents	26.3%	5
Between 75-99% of our full-time equivalents	10.5%	2
Between 50 and 74% of our full-time equivalents	0.0%	0
Between 25-49% of our full-time equivalents	5.3%	1
Less than 25% of our full-time equivalents	52.6%	10
Other	5.3%	1

5. Finances

5.1 TURNOVER AND FINANCIAL STATUS

Respondents were asked to indicate their social enterprise's total turnover in 2019 (including all grants and traded income).

23 respondents answered this question. The single biggest response category was 'greater than €500,000' selected by five respondents (21.7%). Four respondents selected 'no income' which reflects the number of social enterprises that had not yet started trading.

Total income for 2019 (including all grant and trading income)

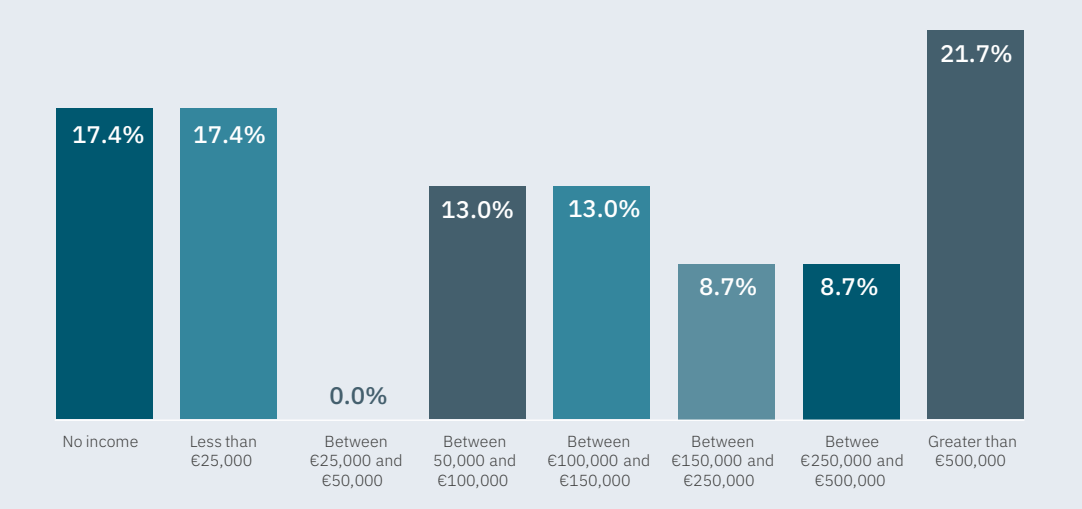
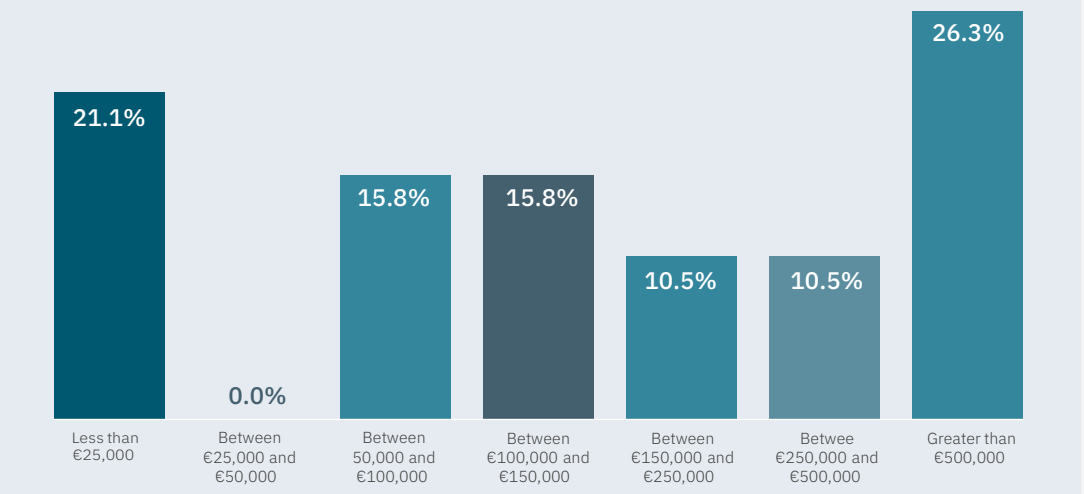


Table 5.1 Total income for 2019 (including traded income & grants)		
Options	**% of responses**	**No.**
No income	17.4%	4
Less than €25,000	17.4%	4
Between €25,000 and €50,000	0.0%	0
Between €50,000 and €100,000	13.0%	3
Between €100,000 and €150,000	13.0%	3
Between €150,000 and €250,000	8.7%	2
Between €250,000 and €500,000	8.7%	2
Greater than €500,000	21.7%	5

If we carry out an analysis of turnover among the trading social enterprises, over one-quarter of trading social enterprises generated a turnover of over €500,00 in 2019, and while just over one-fifth (21.1%) generated less than €25,000.

Total income for 2019 (including all grant and trading income) for trading social enterprises



5.2 TRADED INCOME AS A % OF TURNOVER

A significant portion of respondents (27.3%) reported that less than 10% of their income was generated by traded (non-grant income). However, we know that as 22 responded to this question, some of this number will include those that have not yet started to trade.

The most common response was selected by 45.5% of respondents, who reported that 75% of their income was generated by traded income/non-grants.

Table 5.2 Estimate of the portion of income generated from traded income and contracts (i.e. non-grant income)

Options	% of responses	No.
Less than 10%	27.3%	6
Between 10 - 25%	9.1%	2
Between 25-50%	13.6%	3
Between 50-75%	4.6%	1
Greater than 75%	45.5%	10

5.3 MOST IMPORTANT SOURCES OF GRANT INCOME

Respondents were asked to rank sources of grant income in order of importance (from a list of potential sources of grant income). The responses are weighted in terms of their ranking and a final score for each source is calculated.[10] 20 respondents answered this question.

'Other state grants' followed by the philanthropic sources of funding were the highest ranking sources of funding selected, closely followed by the community services programme and grants from the corporate sector. This high ranking of philanthropic and corporate sector funding is high.

In addition, while labour market programmes (such as CE) accounts for a high proportion of workers, it is not among the most significant sources of grant income, according to respondents, and the Dublin City Social Enterprise Awards, fundraising efforts and Social Enterprise Capital Grants Scheme all out-rank it.

10 Respondents could rank from a list of grant sources income those in order of significance from 1 (the most significant source of income) to 6 (the least significant source of income), or as far along the list as they wished. The scoring and marking works as follows: a #1 choice (i.e. most significant source of income) has a weight of 6. The #2 choice has a weight of 5. The #3 choice has a weight of 4, and so on until choice #6 (the least significant source of income) which has a weighting of 1. The score for each response is based on the average ranking score that it was given by survey respondents.

Sources of grant (non-traded) income in terms of importance for social enterprise

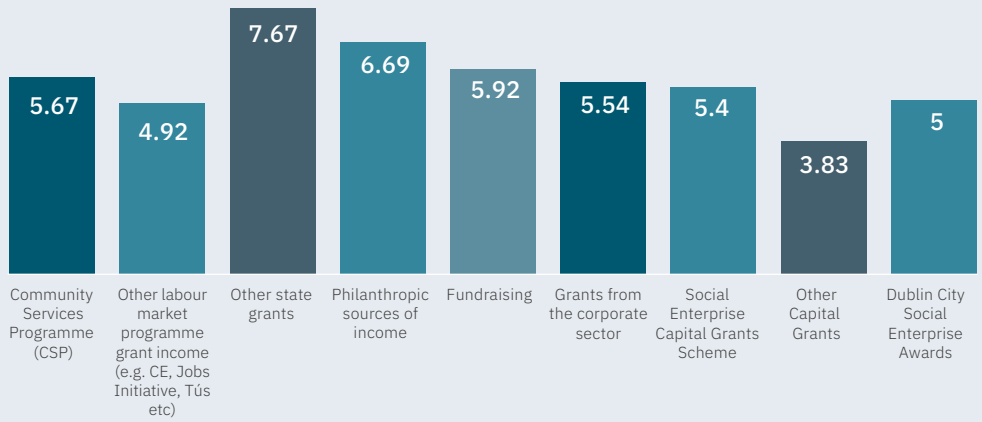


Table 5.3 Most important source of grant income

Options	Score
Community Services Programme (CSP)	5.67
Other labour market programme grant income (e.g. CE, Jobs Initiative, Tús, etc)	4.92
Other state grants[11]	7.67
Philanthropic sources of income	6.69
Fundraising	5.92
Grants from the corporate sector	5.54
Social Enterprise Capital Grants Scheme	5.4
Other capital grants	3.83
Dublin City Social Enterprise Awards	5

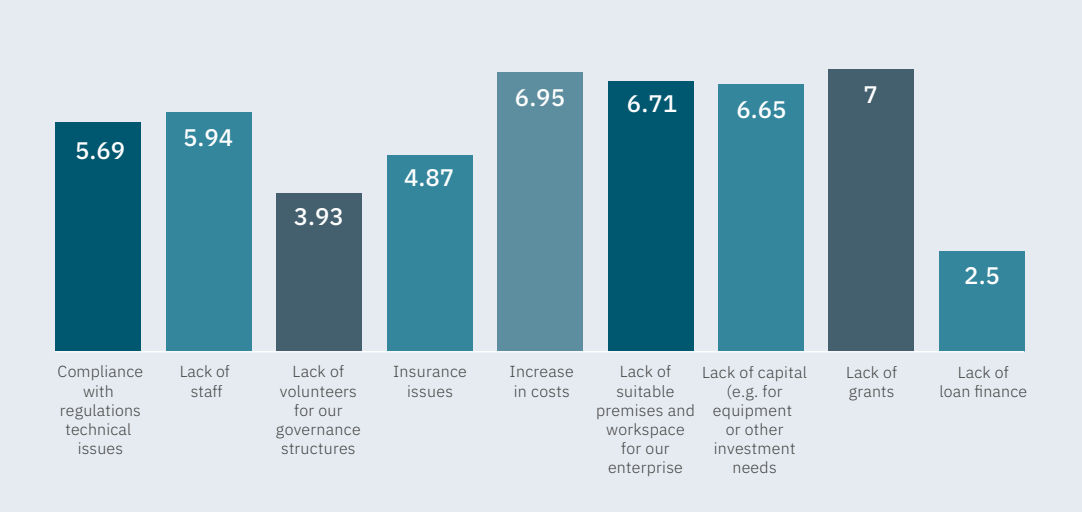
11 Other state grants identified by some included supports from the HSE and the City of Dublin Education and Training Board.

6. Current Challenges and Future Needs

6.1 CHALLENGES

Respondents were asked to rank their current challenges in order of importance (from a list of potential challenges provided). They are presented in the figure below (and listed in the table below in order of importance, according to the ranked scores).[12]

Challenges ranked (and scored) in order of importance



The three most significant challenges are lack of grants, increase in costs and lack of suitable premises, closely followed by a lack of capital.

12 *Respondents could rank challenges in order of significance from 1 (the most significant challenge) to 8 (the least significant challenge). The scoring and marking of challenges works as follows: a #1 choice (i.e. most significant challenge) has a weight of 8. The #2 choice has a weight of 7. The #3 choice has a weight of 6, and so on until choice #8 (the least significant challenge) which has a weighting of 1. The score for each response is based on the average ranking score that it was given by survey respondents.*

The least significant challenges were a lack of loan finance and lack of volunteers for governance structures.

Table 6.1 Relative importance of challenges facing social enterprises (n=24)

Challenge	Score
Lack of grants	7
Increase in costs	6.95
Lack of suitable premises and workspace for our enterprise	6.71
Lack of capital (e.g., for equipment or other investment needs)	6.65
Lack of staff	5.94
Compliance with regulations/ technical issues	5.69
Insurance issues	4.87
Lack of volunteers for our governance structures	3.93
Lack of loan finance	2.5

6.2 TRAINING NEEDS

Respondents were asked to select from a list provided, a maximum of six training needs. All respondents answered the question (n=24), and an average of five was selected per respondent. The responses are listed below in the table below, in order of frequency. The three most frequently selected topics were: • support in identifying funding/ contract opportunities/ preparing applications • governance/ organisational policies and procedures support • training and support around marketing, promotion and sales • HR support/ training around social media and web-based promotion.

Table 6.2 Training needs selected

Options	% of respondents	No.
Support in identifying funding and contract opportunities / preparing applications and tenders	70.8%	17
Governance and organisational policies and procedures support	66.7%	16
Training and support on marketing, promotion and sales	54.2%	13
HR support (recruitment, staff management, support and supervision)	50.0%	12
Training and support around social media, and web-based promotion	50.0%	12
Training and support in impact measurement	50.0%	12
Training and support in contingency planning	45.8%	11
Training and support in identifying new markets and scaling activities	45.8%	11
Training in business planning for start-ups	25.0%	6
Training in financial management and financial controls	25.0%	6
Support in attracting new volunteers and board/ committee members	25.0%	6
Other (included training in policy advocacy)	8.3%	2

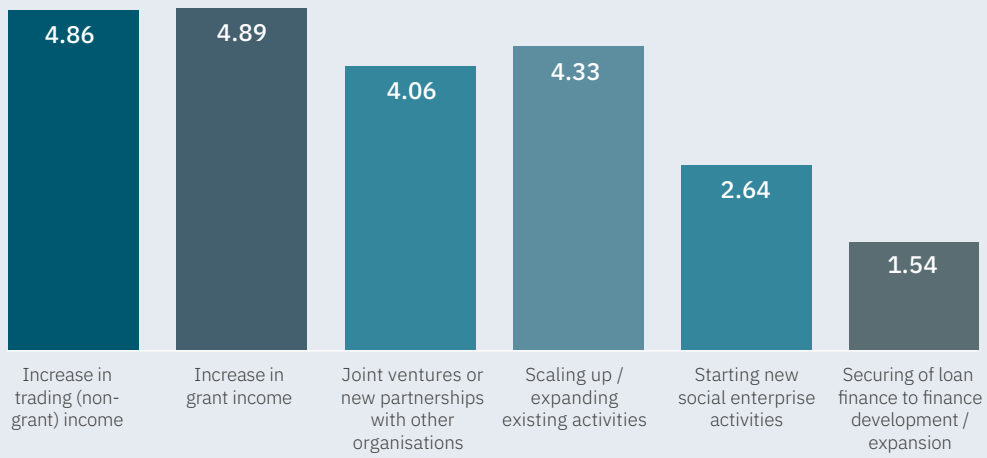
6.3 MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES FOR SUSTAINABILITY

Respondents were asked to rank the most important issues and factors that will affect the sustainability of their social enterprises. Increasing income (trading and grant) were the top two issues, followed by joint ventures or new partnerships and scaling-up/ expanding activities.

Table 6.3 Factors affecting sustainability ranked in order of importance

Training need	No.
Increase in trading (non-grant) income	4.86
Increase in grant income	4.89
Joint ventures or new partnerships with other organisations	4.06
Scaling-up / expanding existing activities	4.33
Starting new social enterprise activities	2.64
Securing of loan finance to finance development / expansion	1.54

Factors that will impact on sustainability



6.4 COMMENTS ON CHALLENGES AND SUPPORTS FOR SUSTAINABILITY

Responses are summarised below:

... a severe lack of affordable spaces in the city to run anything creative or community-orientated.

.. to be more heavily promoted by public bodies..to be supported to expand throughout Dublin.

...A shared work / training space / hub that is accessible to all local social enterprises

....Contracts...and public funding...funding is a constant challenge

...[need for] a shared support resource (finance/HR/governance) structure

Sustainable funding for working with artists

Diversification...and increasing in business-to-business sales

...[being] a charity and social enterprise means we have to keep switching hats...we straddle the arts and health so often funders look for us to go to the other sector for funding.

[ineligibility for grant funding]...because we were a social enterprise and charity....one of them cancelled us out

Mentoring support....navigating the grants and supports available can be very difficult.

Finding suitable long-term employment for the young people

Community Services Programme supports only a contribution towards employment costs.

A grant for children to receive private early-years interventions to reduce Covid lockdown impacts

Raise awareness of co-operative model throughout the sector - there are invisible barriers to co-operatives due to a misunderstanding of the model, particular the community co-operative.

No [forestry grant] for urban areas...need for more grant support for environmental enterprises

6.5 IMPACT OF COVID

The survey was undertaken at the end of the first set of Covid ('lockdown') restrictions, and at the end of the summer (mid-September). The survey respondents were asked to describe the impact that Covid has on their social enterprise. Not surprisingly, the impacts of Covid were severe – not only in operational terms, but in terms of the communities served by the social enterprises. The following summarises the responses and any recommendations made for addressing negative impacts.

We had a significant increase in use of our services and are in the process of increasing our capacity.

Financial impact e.g. unforeseen costs; wellbeing of staff - working remotely, increased stress and challenge in online service delivery....opening of new service postponed

We have not been able to trade with Covid restrictions

We had to pause our print edition, and all our live events were cancelled...fundraising events were decimated. We quickly reoriented online and all our work became digital....Digital optimisation is a key area of improvement for us in order to remain competitive and sustain our key services.

Complete cessation of trading....and training...

Loss of staff members

More expenses like PPE

Decrease in business meant making staff redundant and decrease in revenue has impacted on future viability of the social enterprise

[Covid closure] compounds isolation for the groups and our artists. While we seek to improve our online presence we are also mindful that many organisations and schools we work with do not have a similar capacity...We are also working with artist and musicians who have just faced no work for the foreseeable future. We are also supporting them to seek pup payments and supporting their morale to keep moving forward.

It has made us wary of starting a new venture give the uncertainty.

Our temporary premises was then no longer available due to Covid 19 regulations.

...Social distancing will continue to be a challenge for us.

...The centre has been closed to the public due to COVID-19...we lost all revenue that would have been generated from our room bookings in this period. COVID-19 has [also] impacted our ability to plan our budgets for the future.

Delayed the start-up due to awaiting funding by approx. 9 months. Need for a quicker turnaround, less bureaucratic applications for funding.

During lockdown we had experiences of food poverty and lack of play resources for the children attending the crèche. We applied for grants for food voucher and arts and crafts packs for these families. Children have additional extra developmental needs from the lock down both emotionally and physically as children had no safe large play area to develop in through play

...Covid 19 has slowed our work with older homeowners due to the risks involved

We started our enterprise after Covid-19 and we only work outside

[Need for the] Development of a Business Recovery Plan

Implementation of health & safety measures to mitigate these fears

Minimal [impact] to date

Significant number of loans going into temporary restructures / payment holidays.

7. Engagement with the Consortium

7.1 INTEREST IN INVOLVEMENT IN A DIRECTORY

The survey asked respondents to indicate if they were interested in inclusion in a social enterprise directory. All but two respondents expressed their interest in inclusion.

Table 7.1 Would your group be interested in inclusion in a directory of social enterprises in Co Dublin 8?

Response	%
Yes	91.7%
No	8.3%

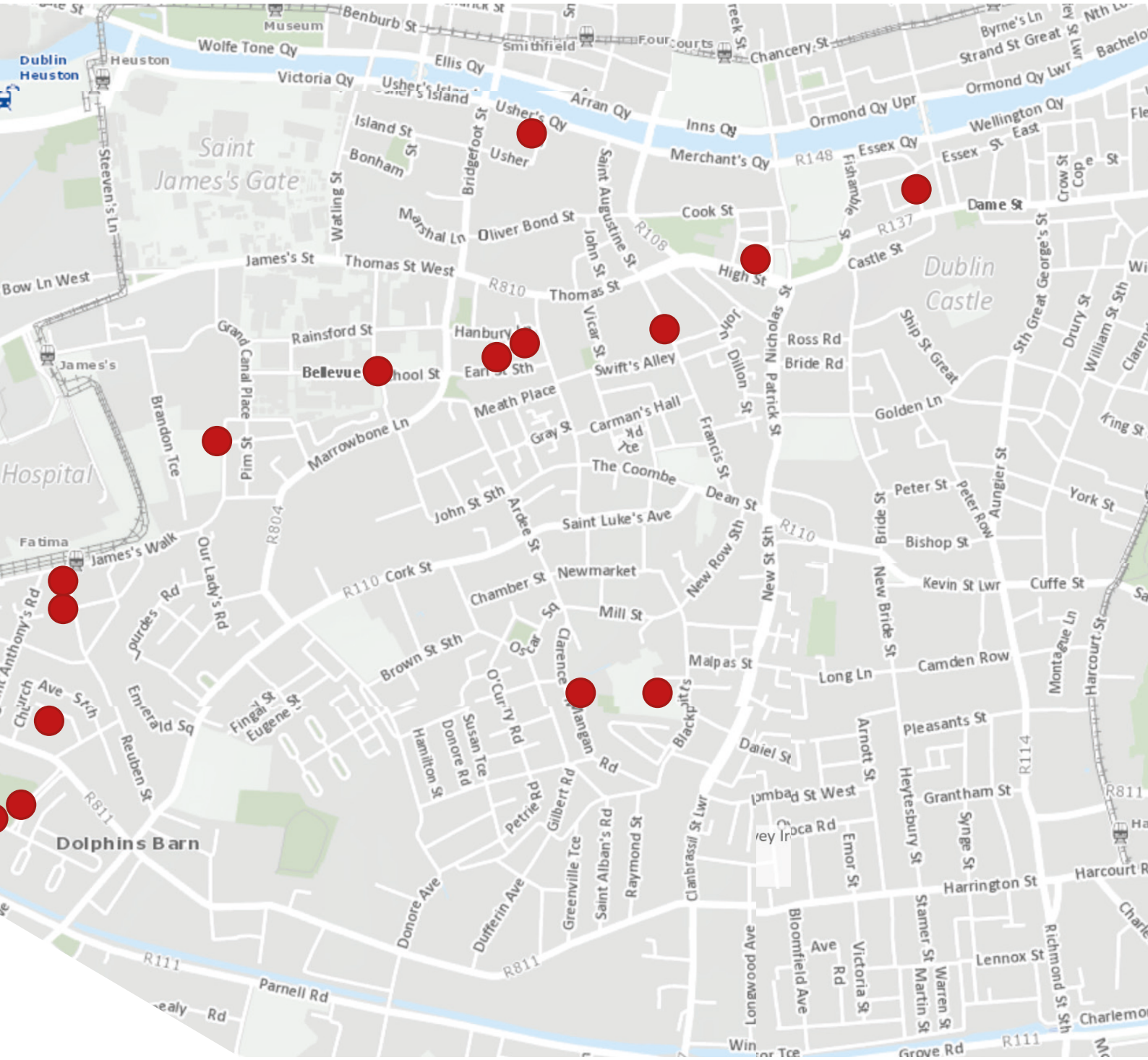
7.2 INTEREST IN INVOLVEMENT IN THE WORK OF THE CONSORTIUM

The survey asked respondents to indicate if they were interested in inclusion in a social enterprise directory. All respondents expressed their interest in involvement.

Table 7.2 Would you be interested in taking part in future activities undertaken by the consortium?

Response	%
Yes	100%
No	0%

Location of Survey Respondents in Dublin 8


Dublin Heuston
Heuston
Museum
Benburb St
Wolfe Tone Qy
Smithfield
Four Courts
Chancery St
Byrne's Ln
Strand St Great
Ellis Qy
Victoria Qy
Usher's Island
Arran Qy
Usher's Qy
Inns Qy
Ormond Qy Upr
Ormond Qy Lwr
Wellington Qy
Essex Qy
Essex St East
Saint James's Gate
Island St
Bonham St
Usher
Merchant's Qy
R148
Fishamble St
Dame St
Cook St
Marshal Ln
Oliver Bond St
Saint Augustine St
R108
R137
Castle St
Dublin Castle
Steevens's Ln
Watling St
Bridgefoot St
Bow Ln West
James's St
Thomas St West
R810
Thomas St
High St
Vicar St
John St
Nicholas St
Ross Rd
Bride Rd
Ship St Great
Sth Great George's St
Drury St
William St Sth
Grand Canal Place
Rainsford St
Hanbury Ln
James's
Bellevue
Swift's Alley
Dillon St
Meath Place
Carman's Hall
Golden Ln
Brandon Tce
Marrowbone Ln
Gray St
Francis St
Hospital
The Coombe
Dean St
Peter St
Peter Row
Aungier St
York St
John St Sth
Ardee St
Saint Luke's Ave
R110
Bride St
Bishop St
Fatima
James's Walk
Our Lady's Rd
R804
R110 Cork St
Chamber St
Newmarket
New Row Sth
New St Sth
Kevin St Lwr
Cuffe St
Mill St
Lourdes Rd
Brown St Sth
Oscar Sq
Clarence St
Malpas St
Long Ln
Camden Row
Montague Ln
Harcourt St
Church Ave Sth
Emerald Sq
Fingal St
Eugene St
O'Curry Rd
Mangan Rd
Blackpitts
Pleasants St
Reuben St
Hamilton St
Donore Rd
Susan Tce
Daniel St
Arnott St
R114
Grantham St
R811
Petrie Rd
Gilbert Rd
Heytesbury St
Synge St
Dolphins Barn
Emor St
Harrington St
Harcourt
Donore Ave
Dufferin Ave
Greenville Tce
Saint Alban's Rd
Raymond St
Clanbrassil St Lwr
Bloomfield Ave
Victoria St
Stamer St
Richmond St Sth
Lennox St
Longwood Ave
Warren St
Martin St
R111
Parnell Rd
Grove Rd

SURVEY OF SOCIAL ENTERPRISES IN DUBLIN 8

Comhairle Cathrach Bhaile Átha Cliath
Dublin City Council

ICE
INNER CITY ENTERPRISE

Oifig Fiontair Áitiúil
Local Enterprise Office

F2

Dublin South City Partnership

DUBLIN CITY COMMUNITY CO-OP

NCH