



News from the RTPI

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Ref: Shortlisted entries press release

Dún Laoghaire Harbour Masterplan has been shortlisted for a prestigious national award for planning excellence

Dún Laoghaire Harbour Masterplan has been shortlisted in the category for 'Excellence in Planning to Create Economically Successful Places' at the 2015 Planning Awards for Excellence. The Awards, run by the Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) will be held at the Pullman London St Pancras on 6 July 2015.

Dún Laoghaire Harbour is a 200-year old heritage site containing 29 listed structures that is twelve kilometres south of Dublin City Centre. It is the largest man-made harbour in Western Europe (125 Hectares) and is home to several marine based sports clubs including 4 yacht clubs. There has been a long history of vibrant activity in the harbour however this has recently diminished due to a reduction in passenger ferry operations and consequently a vital income stream to maintain the harbour. The Masterplan aims to ensure the long term future of the harbour, by encouraging economic development, securing the harbour's heritage and enabling people to enjoy its many amenities.

The Masterplan, published in parallel with a new Heritage Management Plan and Strategic Environmental Assessment, proposes major new land-uses in four key harbour areas which includes residential development, marine and water sports facilities, improved public realm and waterfront access, an 'urban beach', and new cultural attractions including an Irish International Diaspora Centre. Existing ferry berths will be retained and a central feature of the Masterplan is the provision for new cruise liner facilities that could bring an additional 100,000 visitors a year.

We believe this project is an exceptional example of how to deliver an economically successful place owing to its multifaceted approach to understanding the special character of Dún Laoghaire. We were keen to preserve and celebrate the harbour's unique heritage but were aware that change was necessary to ensure the long term future of the harbour. There are no "quick fix" solutions so a variety of approaches were needed to kick start the redevelopment process. We used public consultation and the imperative that economic regeneration was necessary in order to develop the brief resulting in the six key themes being successfully integrated into the plan.

The RTPI represents 23,000 planning professionals worldwide and promotes spatial planning, shapes policy and raises professional standards. The Awards for Planning Excellence have been run by the RTPI for over 30 years to recognise planning excellence.

This year's headline sponsor is AECOM with other sponsors and supporters including Bilfinger GVA, The Planner, Planning Aid England and the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea.

Janet Askew, President of the Royal Town Planning Institute said:

“The shortlist reflects the very best planning projects, strategies and processes that are helping to make great places for people to live and work. The 80 finalists highlight exceptional examples of planning that have made an impact and brought considerable benefits. It will be a tremendous challenge picking individual category winners from such a high quality field.”

Andrew Jones, Practice Leader for Design, Planning + Economics, EMEA at AECOM said: “AECOM is proud to be this year’s headline sponsor of the RTPI’s Awards for Planning Excellence. The shortlist is a diverse mixture of outstanding examples of planning, which really demonstrate the impact the profession has on quality and delivery in the built environment. We look forward to seeing which entries the judges select as the category winners.”

Projects on the shortlist have been recognised for their national contribution to planning and demonstrate how significant schemes can be delivered speedily through the planning and other consents systems.

For more information visit the [RTPI website](#).

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