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FROM MASTER PLAN TO PROJECTS ON-SITE

The Master Plan for the waterfront of Dublin Docklands captures a long list of projects in a comprehensive framework. The framework defines the future character of the campshires, streets, squares and water areas. The overall message is clear and simple: the Docklands waterfront can become the bustling centre of east Dublin, when:

- connections to and from the river are improved
- the variety of activities and amenities in the area grows
- people of Dublin get the opportunity to colonise and rethink the way the river and docks are used.

A variety of strategic projects will give life to these three objectives. The projects not only differ in scale and complexity but also in the timeframe in which they can be realised. Some are 'quick-wins', such as the conversion of the BJ Marine buildings, temporary art installations and festivals and more or less permanent vessels moored along the quays of the Liffey; others are longer term, more complex projects, such as the new link with the Grand Canal Dart Station.

The Dublin Docklands Development Authority plays a key role in the management and development of the projects. Docklands Authority project teams will bring the projects to the level of a design brief for consultants. Some of the projects call for careful implementation and negotiations with the stakeholders involved; others are dependent on the initiative of entrepreneurs. The first step in further developing the Master Plan is a financial strategy. This will prioritise certain projects and identify third-party initiatives.

The need to involve Docklanders and Dubliners in general in the waterfront regeneration project is paramount. Apart from their ability to help sharpen the design concepts, it is they who ultimately will have to take ownership of the end product.

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