

Concept Document

January 2023

NATIONAL WATERSPORTS CAMPUS

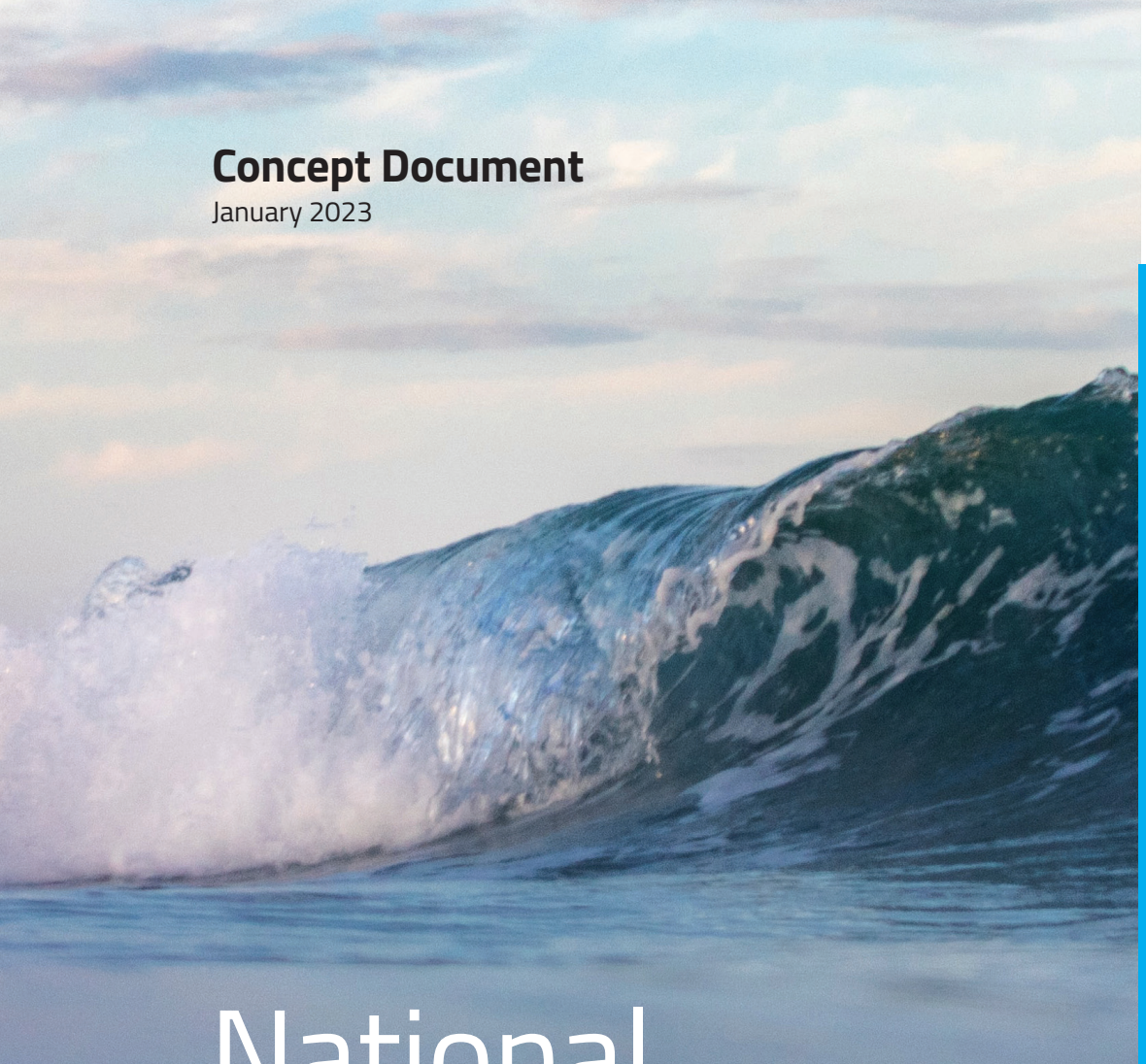
DÚN LAOGHAIRE

National Watersports Campus

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Arising out of the successful Large Scale Sports Infrastructure Grant award from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport in 2019, Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council, together with Irish Sailing and Diving Ireland and the local watersports community, has been working on plans to increase watersports participation in the harbour and county through the provision of improved facilities.

Following consultation with stakeholders, this working document outlines the National Watersports Campus concept for Dún Laoghaire.



THE EXISTING SCENARIO

Dún Laoghaire Harbour already has much of the infrastructure and activities required for the development of a National Watersports Campus. This project proposes integrating the existing facilities and targeting additional infrastructural investment to improve and develop additional facilities, thereby creating a National Watersports Campus.

The extent of the Campus encompasses the harbour area from Seapoint to Sandycove.

Good transport networks provide access to Campus facilities via the coastal mobility cycle route, DART, bus or road for vehicles and trailers.

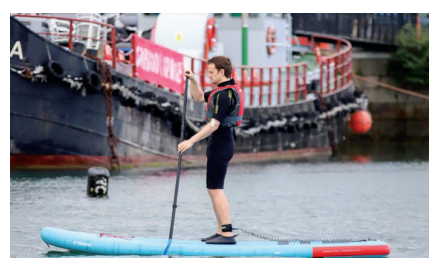
The role of the campus is to support new and existing stakeholders and activity providers and help to develop watersports for the benefit of the entire community.

The experience from the National Sports Campus (NSC) in Abbotstown shows that establishing a single venue for multiple sports brings economies of scale and benefits in terms of profile, participation and performance. However, as a land-based facility, the NSC cannot provide the facilities suited to water-based sports (other than swimming).

The vision is for Dún Laoghaire Harbour to become a National Watersports Campus, providing a wide range of different watersports facilities in a manner similar to the NSC.

NATIONAL WATERSPORT CAMPUS AIMS

- Increase participation across a wide range of watersports with universal access for age, ability and gender.
- Become the home for watersports national governing bodies, the centre for marine leisure in Ireland and a world class event venue.
- Provide a permanent centre for high performance athletes to improve performance standards and widen the talent pool.
- Improve the health and well-being of the community through engagement in healthy sporting activities and their understanding of the marine environment and safety.



PUBLIC ACCESS & PARTICIPATION

One of the primary goals of this concept is to increase participation in sport. A broad range of watersports is available within or adjacent to Dún Laoghaire Harbour. These sports include:

- Sailing
- Diving
- Paddleboarding
- Kayaking
- Canoeing
- Motorboating
- Rowing
- Swimming
- Fishing
- Windsurfing
- Kite surfing



ACCESSIBILITY

The Campus aims to provide and promote activities and training that are fully inclusive and available to all. The sheltered waters within Dún Laoghaire Harbour provide a safe environment for beginners.



EDUCATION

Education is an important aspect of the National Watersports Campus proposal, with many opportunities for schools, universities and community groups to become involved.

There are opportunities for further education in maritime training and leadership skills.



Existing areas /facilities in black type, proposals **in yellow**

Watersports promotion and events centre *Carlisle Pier (Area A on aerial photo)*

1. Events space/transit area for cruise ship passengers (part of marshalling yard area)
2. Ferry Terminal
3. No 4 berth
4. Cruise ship pontoons
5. Watersport clubs at 2 locations
6. RNLI base
7. Boathouse and slip (RNLI inshore base)
8. **Multi-purpose building and slip**
9. **Flexible events space**
10. **Watersport activities (public slip and boathouse)**



Irish Sailing Performance HQ *Coastguard Station (Area B)*

11. Irish Lights
12. Boat Sales and Service
13. Temporary Performance HQ
14. High Performance Dinghy Park
15. Historic boathouse and slip
16. **New Performance HQ and accommodation (Coastguard building)**
17. **Water access (historic boathouse/slip)**



Public Access - slips, pontoons and shore facilities Coal Harbour (Area C)

- 18. Schools (sailing and powerboating)
- 19. Sea Scouts
- 20. Watersports clubs (boating, diving and rowing)
- 21. Activity Providers - paddleboards, kayaking, rowing, diving.
- 22. Public Boatyard
- 23. **Future design image of watersports area (inset)**
- 24. **Future skate park**
- 25. **Future extended public slipway**



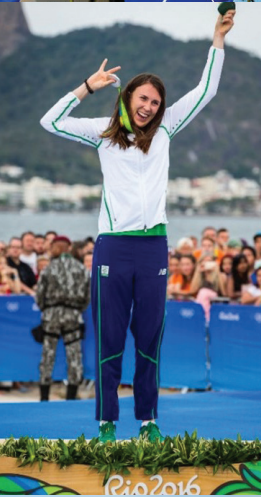
PERFORMANCE HEADQUARTERS

A High Performance Centre to support talented young watersports athletes competing internationally is an important element in this development plan.

Irish Sailing would relocate its High Performance centre to a new permanent location, providing for:

- Athletes supported by Sport Ireland high performance programmes.
- Olympic and Paralympic aspirants
- Irish development squads of young talent
- Career development for aspiring Irish sailing coaches

Investment will result in the regeneration of historic buildings in the harbour.



EVENTS

Dún Laoghaire has established a reputation as a world class venue for hosting World and European sailing championships. They bring economic benefit to the Town and are instrumental in raising the international profile of Dún Laoghaire and the performance standards of Irish athletes.

The flexible events area with slipway access and multi-purpose building will facilitate the regular hosting of marine-related events as well as shows, exhibitions, and conferences.

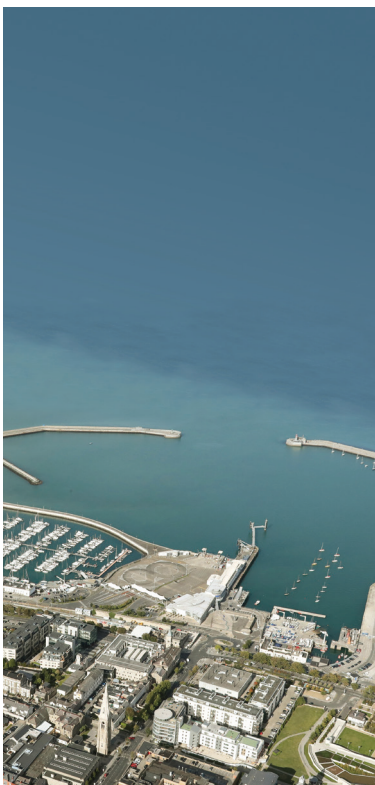
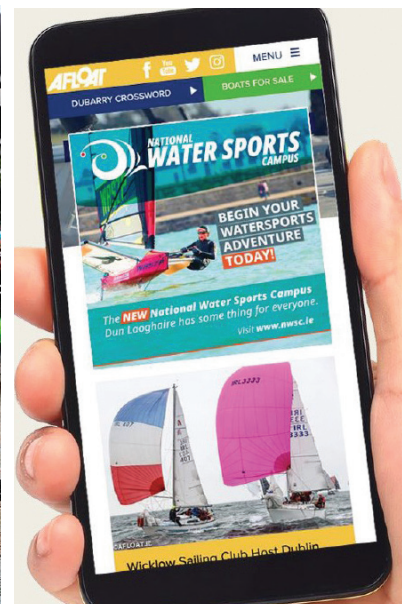
It represents a facility for the benefit of all watersports organisations, Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council, local clubs and organisations, and community groups.

NGB & EVENTS BUILDING

Irish Sailing and Diving Ireland will relocate to the new multipurpose building as the centre for watersports education, promotion and events.

The flexible building will accommodate national governing bodies, and a promotion centre, along with educational and event facilities.

The facility will accommodate the HQ for Irish Sailing and Diving Ireland and provide flexible facilities for Canoeing, Rowing, Triathlon and other watersports national governing bodies.



CAMPUS MARKETING

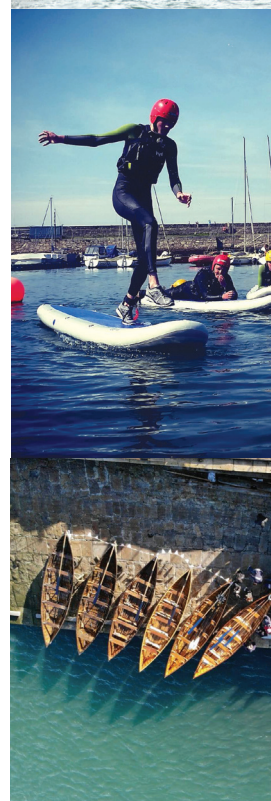
The marine leisure marketing plan will raise public awareness and promote a range of activities and organisations within the campus.

A website and corresponding social media channels will promote the campus and its facilities and drive traffic to respective club and activity provider websites.

There will also be a physical Marketing and Promotional presence to direct visitors to activity providers.

It is anticipated that the campus will dovetail its marketing with Council initiatives (such as the DLR Sports Partnership) to raise public awareness of watersports.

This targeted public investment meets the need for public access, leverages existing facilities and creates a clear identity and a modern 'online' platform for new and existing participants to access watersport activities/facilities



Promoted by



Supported by



Campus Advisory Group (CAG)



With the grateful participation of many other clubs, providers and marine organisations

The Campus project is:

- Promoted by Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council, Irish Sailing and Diving Ireland.
- Supported by watersports national governing bodies.
- Supported by the existing watersports clubs, activity providers and marine organisations in Dún Laoghaire

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