**South Dublin County Council**

**Telecom Duct Strategy**

**Objective:**
Enable cost-effective, future-proof digital connectivity by installing an open access duct network across the SDCC area, supporting multiple operators and fostering competition, innovation, and economic growth.

**1. Strategic objective**

* **Digital Inclusion:** Ensure all communities, including rural and hard-to-reach areas, benefit from high-speed connectivity.
* **Market Enablement:** Provide a neutral duct infrastructure to lower barriers for broadband providers, stimulating service competition and reducing duplication of civil works.
* **Economic Growth:** Enhance attractiveness for businesses, support remote working, and underpin smart city initiatives (IoT, traffic management, energy efficiency).
* **Data Centre Capacity:** Plan to ensure that SDCC can control and facilitate the delivery of the high bandwidth requirements of Data Centres.
* **Environmental Benefits:** Reduce repeated street works and carbon impact of multiple trenching projects. Enforce the ‘One Dig’ policy.
* **Maximise Utilisation:** Manage the available space to deliver maximum capacity.
* **Utility Planning:** Ensure that the requirements of all critical utilities are met, including telecoms.

**2. Delivery Approach**

* **Map Infrastructure:** Ensure that all of the existing duct infrastructure is mapped.
* **Phased Rollout:** Begin with priority zones (business parks, new housing, regeneration areas) and expand area-wide.
* **Leverage Public Works:** Coordinate duct installation with roads, utilities, and regeneration projects such as Active Travel and Bus connects to minimize disruption and cost.
* **Leverage Third Party Works:** Ensure the installation of ducts on behalf of SDCC where Third Party works are undertaken in public land.
* **Open Access Model:** Ensure ducts are available on fair, reasonable, and cost effective basis for all operators. Standard rate cards and wayleave agreements will be developed to ensure equal access and treatment.
* **Governance & Ownership:**
	+ Where ducts are installed in public land an agreed number of ducts will be installed on behalf of SDCC who will retain ownership of these ducts for their own use, or make them available to other operators in the future.
	+ Where ducts are installed in SDCC parks all ducts will be owned by SDCC and leased to operators as required.
	+ These rules of engagement will be embedded in the ROL (Road Open License) processes

**3. Partnerships & Stakeholders**

* **South Dublin County Council:** Control and facilitate the network rollout.
* **Telecom Operators:** Provide active infrastructure and services.
* **Utilities & Developers:** Integrate ducting into planned civil works.
* **Community Stakeholders:** Ensure inclusivity, affordability, and social impact.
* **Funding Sources:** Blend of public investment, private capital, and potential government digital infrastructure grants.

**4. Success Measures**

* Increased number of operators using the ducts.
* Reduction in average broadband deployment time and cost.
* Improved coverage and service competition across the South Dublin Council area.
* Improve resident and business satisfaction with digital services.
* Commercial requirements are met in line with other SDCC objectives.
* Optimise the use of public land.

**Next Steps (12 Months):**

1. Establish a governance model to control the current and planned projects.
2. Identify and map target areas.
3. Integrate ducting into all new public and private works.