

Post Expansion Operational Review

The Planning Department and operator, JCDecaux are presently working to maximise the capacity of the overall network infrastructure post expansion. This involves ongoing network monitoring and evaluation to respond to any problem or opportunity areas as they are identified. The scheme is primarily designed to be self regulatory however, the network is actively monitored and distribution teams regulate an element of bikes around the city depending on demand and supply to manage critical bottlenecks in the system. The larger '40 stand' docking stations that are a feature of the Phase 2 expansion have considerably helped manage capacity during morning, lunch and evening periods of peak demand. Contractual service levels continue to be maintained post expansion. In this respect the operator has updated work practices and invested in additional staff and IT resources to continue to respond to demand. Demand for the service continues to grow and with that comes increased pressure associated with the management of the scheme.

Phase 2 Expansion Funding

The Phase 2 expansion was facilitated by a combination of funding with capital funding provided by the National Transport Authority (NTA), sponsorship from Coca-Cola Ireland, an increase in subscription tariffs, with the balance of monies provided by Dublin City Council. The system costs €1.9m a year to operate annually.

Future Expansion Strategy & Financing

Network monitoring will inform planning for any future network expansion which may involve a review and update of the 'dublinbikes Strategic Planning Framework' to take account of BRT, Luas Cross City, strategic cycle infrastructure and other pipeline developments. In tandem, the Planning Department is exploring options whereby future development phases of the scheme can be financed. All feasible potential funding sources to facilitate further expansion are being explored including central government funding, alteration of pricing structure, increasing the subscription base and generating additional revenue through advertising.

All further expansion will be subject to securing the necessary levels of substantial funding for both capital and annual operational costs over the life of the scheme. Costing for future expansion phases will be subject to the legislative requirements of the public procurement process and delivering a long term sustainable financing solution that represents best value for money. There are no definite timeframes in place for the delivery of the next expansion phases after Phase 2 at this time.

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