What is an Innovation District?

- It is an area within a city specially designed to bring together large and small technology companies, innovators, designers, artists, researchers, students and residents from the local community.

- By placing these organisations and people in a designated area, and with a University at the centre, it has been shown that more innovation and entrepreneurship flourish – helping to create new jobs and ideas.

- Community-based participation is at its centre supporting the creation of a vibrant, social space where employees, students and residents can work, live and learn alongside each other.

- Cities around the world including Boston and Barcelona have developed these innovation districts which have led to a higher rate of job creation and economic growth while also successfully enabling urban regeneration in city areas.

What next?

- The Taoiseach has established an Advisory Group for the Grand Canal Innovation District (GCID). This group – made up of people from business, start-ups, universities, the local area and representatives from government departments – has been asked by the Taoiseach to make a series of recommendations on how the GCID can develop in a way that will benefit everyone. They have been asked to report back to him in the first half of 2019.

- These recommendations will set out next steps for the creation of the District.

- This is a long-term project which has the potential to transform and improve the local area for everyone who lives and works there. A lot of time and thought will go into the planning phase and into putting the connections in place to ensure that the District will succeed.

Keep in touch

As the project develops, we will keep you updated on key developments through our website www.tcd.ie/innovation-district

We want to work together to make sure that the ideas and feedback from the community are captured so please do share your views or questions with us at gcid@tcd.ie
Why it is needed?

- To continue to get the right kind of investments and to attract and retain entrepreneurs, Ireland is competing with other countries. There is more innovation and technological development emerging from other cities around the world.

- Globally, there are many challenges such as climate change and healthcare reform. We need the best academic researchers working with multi-national companies and with innovative start-ups to help find solutions to these challenges.

- The creation of an innovation district in Dublin provides Ireland with the opportunity to compete with other countries, helping to keep investment and jobs in the country for the future.

Why Grand Canal?

- Grand Canal Dock is already home to many leading technology companies in the world e.g. Google, Twitter, LinkedIn, Facebook, Airbnb, as well as legal and accountancy firms, e.g. Deloitte, Matheson. It also has a vibrant and growing start-up community.

- The most successful innovation districts succeed when a mix of stakeholders work together in close proximity.

- More than 40,000 people currently are employed in the kilometer radius of Grand Canal Dock.

- There is a diverse well-established residential community. Successful innovation districts have a strong activation programme that fully integrate the local residents into cultural, education and employment opportunities and events.

- Grand Canal Dock has the potential to develop a more vibrant social centre with cafes and restaurants amongst cultural amenities such as the Grand Canal Theatre and the Lir Theatre.

How is Trinity College Dublin involved?

- Trinity will be at the heart of the proposed new Grand Canal Innovation District. This is the first time Trinity has built a new campus outside its main site and the location at Grand Canal is ideally positioned to connect to local businesses, community and to link to the main campus.

- The campus will be dedicated to technology and innovation – but this doesn’t just mean science and computing, innovation takes place in every subject and business, from hair dressing to book publishing, across arts and humanities as well as the sciences.

- Trinity will work with other Universities in Ireland, industry and local residents to drive new ideas, research and education so that the District will benefit the community, the city and the country.

What are the benefits for the local community?

- This proposed new investment will stimulate regeneration within the Grand Canal area.

- The new campus for Trinity College will involve the development of a beautiful set of buildings in the heart of community.

- Importantly the plan is that the campus will be open – with no walls. It will be easy for people from the local community to access the shared spaces including open squares, cultural spaces and meeting rooms. These spaces can be enjoyed by local residents and people working and studying within the District.

- The Grand Canal Innovation District will bring together the start-up community and the larger, established companies. Together they will drive more innovation, creating jobs and opportunities for the young people of the area.

- The new retail spaces and services will create further employment opportunities for all those living in close proximity to the District and will bring vibrancy and life to the streets at weekends and in the evening times.

- By designing a new campus at the heart of Grand Canal Dock, Trinity can provide the connection between businesses and community and develop new education initiatives targeted at local residents – both school goers and adults who want to develop new skills.