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**Monday 15 March 2021**

**Urban Regeneration and Development Fund ‘Call 2’**

* **€74 million South-East Projects**

**Carlow County Council project**

**Public Realm and Pedestrian Linkage Project Carlow Town - €9.79 million**

This project will provide Carlow Town with plentiful, accessible and exciting public spaces that people can use all year round. It will also improve town centre linkages and increase pedestrian mobility from the town centre to Carlow College and the railway station.

The goal is to help more people spend more time outdoors together in an attractive urban setting. By improving the setting’s quality and enhancing accessibility to public open spaces, the project seeks to produce multi-functional benefits including health and wellbeing, sustainable transport, greater biodiversity and opportunities for recreation.

This project is the follow-on capital works to the related Master Plan from the successful URDF ‘Call 1’-funded ‘Funding for Master plan for Carlow Town Centre’ project. The project includes the following elements:

* Railway Link through Carlow College – works include the creation of a pedestrian friendly space, through landscaping, street furniture and improvements to pedestrian and cycling infrastructure
* Tullow Street - works to include provision of seating, trees and planting beds along Tullow Street
* Barrack Street Pedestrian Link - creating a new pedestrian link to improve the pedestrian connections in the town centre
* Barrack Street including Shamrock Square – this includes the creation of a pedestrian and cycle friendly space; landscaping to reduce the visual dominance of vehicular traffic; planting and seating to improve the public realm
* Kennedy Avenue - works will include the removal of Kennedy Avenue roundabout; planting of trees along Kennedy Avenue; and a new traffic solution including a cycle lane.

**URDF funding for Carlow:**

The **€9.79 million** in approved funding is in addition to **€580,000** in approved funding for the ‘Call 1’ project, ‘Funding for Master plan for Carlow Town Centre’.

Total URDF funding approved to date: **€10.37 million**

**Kilkenny County Council projects**

**Abbey Quarter Phase 2 (Advancement Project) - €11.46 million**

This project entails the second phase of the Abbey Quarter project and builds on the first phase works initiated under the successful URDF ‘Call 1’-funded project. The second phase involves five complementary sub-projects covering public realm improvements, accessibility and regeneration of the Abbey Quarter:

* development of a new urban street with priority for pedestrians and cyclists, and an urban park and plaza
* construction of a boardwalk at Greensbridge, linking the River Nore riverside walk with the new Riverside Linear Park at the Abbey Quarter and onwards to the Canal Walk. It will facilitate and encourage cycling and walking to work from the adjacent residential areas
* repurposing of two retained maturation vats (following a design competition)
* Tea House - restoration and repurposing of the second smaller tea house as a public amenity
* Further refurbishment of the squash courts to serve as a cultural hub

**Kilkenny City Centre Enhanced Liveability Project - €6.64 million**

This project will increase the attractiveness, liveability and connectivity of Kilkenny City Centre for locals and visitors alike. It will transform the place by radically improving the streetscape and accessibility of the city centre, helping to knit together its constituent spaces and deliver the council’s objective of a compact ‘10-minute City’ and the most liveable urban centre in Ireland. The URDF will part-fund:

* High Street and Rose Inn Street - improve the public realm and introduce mobility/smarter travel options and shared spaces
* Ormonde Street - upgrade the streetscape and public realm to include provision of a new one-way system
* St Kieran’s Street - upgrade the streetscape along the laneways and slips that connect it with High Street
* St Mary’s Precinct - upgrade the streetscape and laneways
* Carnegie Plaza - upgrade the public realm and the streetscape along Barrack Lane linking to John Street

**URDF funding for** **Kilkenny**:

The **€18.10 million** in approved funding is in addition to **€6.15 million** in approved URDF funding for the ‘Call 1’ ‘Abbey Quarter’ project.

Total URDF funding approved to date: **€24.26 million**

**Waterford City and County Council projects**

**Waterford City Centre Regeneration - €27.66 million**

The National Planning Framework contains an objective of Waterford becoming a ‘Regional City of Scale’, driving regional growth. This project consists of the important regeneration of the Historic Core and implementation of the ‘Strategic Public Realm Plan’.

The project is based on a series of planned city centre brownfield site proposals and includes works to create a cultural hub, a business hub and the re-use of key sites. It involves a wide range of interventions that will provide an attractive ‘live, work and play environment’ to draw people back into Waterford City centre in order to bring social, economic and cultural vibrancy. The concept is to cross a ‘tipping point’ whereby the city centre will provide jobs and sustain itself into the future.

The project focuses on two of Waterford City’s quarters - the Cultural Quarter and the Viking Triangle. The works are:

* **Cultural Quarter:** Strategic site assembly in key locations. This will enable various developments, including gallery and artists’ space; community venue and education centre; a creative industries incubation hub; public realm works; pocket parks and development of outdoor performance space.
* **Viking Triangle:** strategic site assembly in key locations to enable various developments, including public realm works, a public park and mixed-use developments.

**URDF funding for** **Waterford**:

The **€27.66 million** in approved funding is in addition to **€82.79 million** in approved URDF funding for two ‘Call 1’ projects: ‘Waterford City & Environ – North Quays’ and ‘Tramore Town Centre’.

Total URDF funding approved to date: **€110.45 million**

**Wexford County Council projects**

**Trinity Wharf - €18.49 million**

Trinity Wharf is a brownfield site, centrally located in Wexford Town with a high amenity waterfront vista. The site is identified as a ‘Key Opportunity’ site in the ‘Wexford Town & Environs Development Plan 2009 – 2015’. Through this project, the council plans to develop Trinity Wharf as a new mixed-use urban quarter to include retail, cultural, hotel and commercial office development.

The development has the potential to bring significant economic and social benefits. It could position Wexford as a superior location to work, live and visit. This project will build on the support approved under the URDF ‘Call 1’ project for first phase development of an access road and initial enabling works. Under ‘Call 2’ the URDF will support enabling/development works including:

* Access Road and Junction Works - new access road, automated railway level crossing and Trinity Street junction works
* Site Development Works - sea wall, site development works, public realm works to prepare an initial three sites for private sector development
* Marina and boardwalk - A pedestrian boardwalk will integrate Trinity Wharf with the town’s existing quay front promenade, including the newly improved Crescent Quay urban realm. It will link the site to Wexford’s town centre. The Trinity Wharf marina will provide the facilities for leisure craft activities and marine tourism.
* Site surfacing, hard and soft landscaping - site services, surfacing, hard and soft landscaping to prepare remaining sites for private sector development.

**URDF funding for** **Wexford**:

The **€18.48 million** in approved funding is in addition to **€2.03 million** in approved URDF funding for the ‘Call 1’ ‘Abbey Quarter’ project.

Total URDF funding approved to date: **€20.51 million**

**Analysis of the South-East region’s needs**

Although it has a strong urban structure, much of this region is rural in character and includes some of Ireland’s most productive agricultural land. Strategically located between Cork and Dublin, with a network of large towns, the south-east has capacity for improved urban growth. Regional opportunities to leverage growth include:

* national and international connectivity, especially through ports proximate to continental Europe, such as Belview and Rosslare-Europort
* further balanced employment, and
* housing development in key settlements and county towns.

This growth, however, must be based on infrastructure and quality of life, rather than long distance commuting to Dublin. This is apparent in parts of counties Carlow and Wexford, in particular.

**Urban Regeneration and Development Fund**

* The URDF is one of four funds established under the National Development Plan (NDP) 2018-2027. It has an allocation of €2 billion to 2027. Its aim is to support more compact and sustainable development in Ireland’s five cities and other large urban areas. Funding is aimed at projects that support the NDP objectives and the NPF’s ten ‘national strategic outcomes’, which include compact growth; enhanced regional accessibility; and sustainable mobility. The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage is responsible for administering the URDF.

The seven chosen projects are consistent with the Southern Assembly’s Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy.

* Through the URDF, successful applicants receive targeted, integrated funding for innovative solutions to issues that have hindered urban regeneration and rejuvenation. The fund part-funds projects that will deliver a greater proportion of residential and mixed-use development within the existing built-up footprints of cities and large towns.
* The URDF’s significant capital investment acts as a catalyst for wider regeneration, development and growth. The IDA has already acknowledged the URDF’s important role in creating a sense of place, something considered essential for increasing Ireland’s attractiveness to foreign investment and strengthening opportunities for indigenous enterprise.
* URDF ‘Call 1’ funding: The URDF is already providing assistance for major regeneration projects in Ireland’s larger urban areas. Under ‘Call 1’ of the URDF, 87 projects are being funded. Details were announced in November 2018. These projects are spread across the regions and span a number of the NPF’s objectives. The total provisional allocations to date in respect of these 87 projects is just under €300m.
* URDF ‘Call 2’ funding: a second call for funding proposals was announced in January 2020. It focused on (1) integrated urban developments (2) strategic development areas combining a number of elements and (3) schemes that support wider climate action objectives and quality of life factors within cities and towns. Projects aim to deliver compact growth whilst ensuring more of our urban areas become attractive and vibrant places in which to live, work, visit and invest.
* More information on the URDF is available at: [www.gov.ie/urdf](http://www.gov.ie/urdf)