

# TOWNS CENTRE ON REVITALISED PROJECTS TO TACKLE DERELICTION

Plans for 26 towns across Ireland are up and running under an initiative that aims to breathe new life into the town centres, tackle vacancy and dereliction as well as boosting business and tourism. The towns will receive government support with funding of €30,000 each to complete a comprehensive town plan under the Town Centre First scheme.



Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys, Minister of State for Local Government and Planning, Kieran O'Donnell and TCF National Co-ordinator, Mairéad Hunt at the launch of the Town Centre First scheme on 28 February.

The Town Centre First (TCF) initiative will see millions of euros spent on tackling dereliction and creating new community spaces across a range of rural towns, earmarked to receive funding.

Plans were developed in consultation with local communities who represent the vision of local people for their area and contain proposals for a diverse range of projects. These include redeveloping derelict sites, creating community parks and walkways, boosting SME and tourism potential and protecting historical landmarks.

The new towns will now join 26 others (one in each county) whose final action plans were released by Minister for Rural and Community Development Heather Humphreys and Minister of State for Local Government Kieran O'Donnell at the end of February. The 26 additional towns will receive €30,000 each to complete their redevelopment plan.

Minister Humphreys said the scheme is about empowering people to develop a vision for their town that can make it a better place to live, work, invest in and enjoy. She said the new town regeneration officers will ensure that the projects on vacancy have a strategic and coherent approach at local level.

## LOCAL COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

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Town regeneration officers have been appointed in every local authority to drive implementation of the new plans with the support of government funding through the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund.

The Urban Regeneration and Development Fund, the Town and Village Renewal Scheme, the Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant, European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), Town Centre First Heritage Revival (THRIVE) Scheme and the Historic Towns Initiative will also provide funding.

Minister of State for Local Government and Planning, Kieran O'Donnell, said: "The Town Centre First approach empowers local communities and businesses, supported by Local Authorities, to guide and direct investment to maximise the particular

strengths and assets of their town."

Minister O'Donnell congratulated and commended all the local communities and Town Teams for their dedicated work in designing their plans. "Town Centre First also supports the objectives of the National Planning Framework and Housing for All by unlocking the potential of vacant and underused buildings to increase housing supply and attract more people to live and work in our town centres," he added.

The towns now have a unique opportunity to participate in the scheme and create more vibrant and attractive town centres, according to Mairéad Hunt, national co-ordinator of the Town Centre First scheme

"Our town teams are doing fantastic work around the country creating and driving forward ambitious plans. We want to see many more such teams, so it is very welcome that the Department of Rural and Community Development is giving local authorities funding of up to €10,000 to establish new town teams or build up existing teams," she added.



For further information on Town Centre First and the towns involved in the project visit [www.towncentrefirst.ie](http://www.towncentrefirst.ie).

## Town Centre First

### Phase 1 & 2 of Town Centre First Plans

Following the publication of the first ever Town Centre First Plans, each local authority now has a Town Regeneration Officer in place to manage the implementation of these plans locally and to work with community representative teams from each town community. The 26 local authorities now with Town Centre First plans in place under Phase 1:

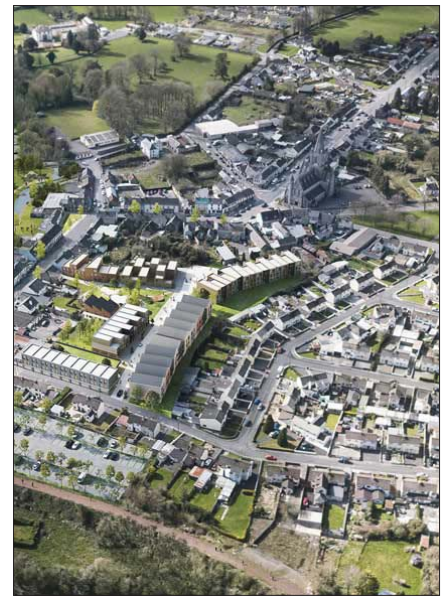
County	Towns/Villages
Carlow	Tullow
Cavan	Bailieborough
Clare	Sixmilebridge
Cork	Skibbereen
Donegal	Milford
Fingal	Lusk
Galway	Gort
Kerry	Milltown
Kildare	Clane
Kilkenny	Urlingford
Laois	Rathdowney
Leitrim	Carrick-on-Shannon
Limerick	Abbeyfeale
Longford	Longford Town
Louth	Dunleer
Mayo	Killala
Meath	Enfield
Monaghan	Carrickmacross
Offaly	Clara
Roscommon	Strokestown
Sligo	Tubbercurry
Tipperary	Roscrea
Waterford	Portlaw
Westmeath	Moate
Wexford	New Ross
Wicklow	Blessington

### Phase 2: Next 26 towns approved to develop Town Centre First Plans

County	Town
Carlow	Bagenalstown
Cavan	Killeshandra
Clare	Kilrush
Cork	Kanturk
Donegal	Glenties
Fingal	Rush
Galway	Athenry
Kerry	Kenmare
Kildare	Castledermot
Kilkenny	Graigueunamanagh
Laois	Mountmellick
Leitrim	Manorhamilton
Limerick	Rathkeale
Longford	Ballymahon
Louth	Clogherhead
Mayo	Ballyhaunis
Meath	Dunshaughlin
Monaghan	Ballybay
Offaly	Ferbane
Roscommon	Castlereagh
Sligo	Ballymote
Tipperary	Carrick On Suir
Waterford	Dunmore East
Westmeath	Castlepollard
Wexford	Courtown/Riverchapel
Wicklow	Newtownmountkennedy



Urlingford, Co. Kilkenny.



Clara Town Centre.



Roscrea Town Centre.



Strokestown Town Centre.



Killala, Co. Mayo.



Roscrea.