

Waterford – Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF)

Two complementary funding applications have been submitted for Waterford

1. Cappoquin

An application seeking funding from RRDF in the amount of €4.3 million (total expenditure €6.2 million) has been submitted by Waterford City and County Council (WCCC) in respect of Cappoquin. Partners in the application are WCCC, Waterford Leader Partnership, Cappoquin Community Development Company (CCDC) and Tomar Trust (a philanthropic organisation)

Cappoquin has been identified as a town in significant need of regeneration with high levels of dereliction and vacancy in the town centre and with high deprivation scores in areas such as employment, education, skills and local service provision. This application is intended to address many of the key identified issues facing Cappoquin while engaging significantly with the local community and while developing collaborative cross-agency responses.

Some of the main elements of this application are:

- Public realm improvements in Market Square and environs
- Building refurbishments in Main Street and Market Square with an associated increase in commercial and community activity
- Residential developments in Green Street and Main Street
- Increased amenity and improved connectivity, especially between the town centre and the River Blackwater

2. Blackwater Valley

An application has been submitted on behalf of 7 communities (Ballyduff, Lismore, Cappoquin, Villierstown, Aglish, Clashmore and Tallow) in the valleys of the rivers Blackwater and Bride by Waterford Leader Partnership. This application is totally complementary to the WCCC application for Cappoquin and has partners WLP, WCCC, Tomar Trust and community organisations in the seven communities.

The emphasis is on improvements in infrastructure and capacity within the seven communities which will increase local employment opportunities, provide greater connectivity among them, develop local assets and develop a greater sense of unity in the area as a development unit with the River Blackwater as the central focus of development and opportunity. The proposed developments range from remote working hubs to office developments to education facilities to activity tourism infrastructure and services.

Total proposed project expenditure is in excess of €5.6 million but initial funding requirement, as a Category 2 application, is for €128,842 with a proposed follow-up Category 1 application in 2019 which will be seeking in excess of €4 million from the RRDF

Partner Funding: WCCC considers the partnership of Tomar Trust as providing a major community lever to the projects as it provides a valuable source of match funding from outside the public purse as well as providing a platform for further leveraging of community and other private sector funding. CCDC has also committed company funds for the purposes of match funding

Future: Further applications for RRDF funding for 2019 onwards are anticipated for the Copper Coast, Portlaw and the Suir Estuary

Tramore Town Centre – Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF)

Tramore Town Centre

An application seeking funding from URDF in the amount of €2.898 million has been submitted by Waterford City and County Council (WCCC) in respect of Tramore Town Centre. Partners in the application are WCCC, Tramore Development Trust and Tramore Chamber of Commerce

In contrast to the growing, well serviced residential communities of the upper town and the vibrant promenade and beach areas, Tramore town centre has struggled. There are a range of factors affecting the centre; these include lack of investment, poor public realm, confusing traffic circulation, limited retail offer and topographic issues that create steep inclines. Additionally, there are a number of significant derelict or underutilised sites and vacant buildings. This application is intended to address many of the key identified issues facing the town core while engaging significantly with the local community and stakeholders including the Tramore Town Centre Management Group.

The application has included specific proposals (that were included in a Part 8 process completed in April 2018), but also identified a future pipeline of projects relating to capitalising on Tramore's coastal location.

Some of the main elements of this application are to:

- Create a destination town centre with a focal hub at the 'Cross' to give identity and character to Main Street with a high quality public realm that utilises local references.
- Improve connectivity between the transport hub, promenade and beach areas to the town centre via Strand Street, thereby giving a boost to footfall.
- Catalyse the reversal of vacancy by acquiring vacant premises in order to refurbish and relet with a suitable complimentary business use and a 'living over the shop' arrangement serving as best practice for future developments.
- Improve the road traffic layout and way finding according to an integrated traffic management proposal and provide a parking solution which will give access to a significantly increased quantum of off street parking.

The emphasis is on an integrated proposal which 'knits' together the upper town and beach areas by creating a compact and vibrant town core that serves both the residents of Tramore as well as visitors. The goal is to catalyse investment into vacant sites and buildings, encourage new residential use and broaden retail offer.

Future:

The application made reference to a future coastal necklace of projects in a long term vision of Tramore as a town of experiences. These include:

- Continuing development of the Town Park and Japanese Gardens.
- Ecological tourism on the back strand.
- Extension and improvement of coastal walks to the Metal Man and Brownstown Head.
- Development of a transport hub and the train station.
- Improvement of Newtown Cove, Guillamene and the Pier
- Improvement of the promenades.