

Friday May 17th, 2024



**An Roinn Forbartha
Tuaithe agus Pobail**
Department of Rural and
Community Development

**Ár dTodhchaí
Tuaithe**
Our Rural
Future



Our Rural Future: Minister Humphreys announces towns to receive funding under the Town Centre First Town Team Support Fund

- ***Investment for 68 Town Teams nationwide***
- ***Funding will support communities to establish or develop Town Teams where they are not already well established.***
- ***Minister Humphreys: This is about addressing challenges such as vacancy and dereliction; Making our rural towns more vibrant places***

Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys, has today announced a new initiative to support our Town Teams.

The first ever Town Team Support Fund will deliver funding for communities that have never had a Town Team before.

The investment will also assist towns that are only recently established.

A total of 68 towns will be supported with €10,000 in funding per town.

The funding may be used to support the establishment and/or development of town teams where they are not already well established, and to better understand the unique features of towns. The projects will be managed by the DRCD-funded Town Regeneration Officers across the country.

In announcing the funding, Minister Humphreys said:

"I'm delighted today to announce the first ever dedicated investment in our Town Teams.

"This is all about tackling vacancy, combatting dereliction and breathe new life into our town centres.

"Through this initiative, we are recognising the importance of having vibrant towns, which are places to live in, work in, visit, and raise a family in.

“Town teams are key to rural regeneration and I am delighted that this funding will support the development of these teams and the creation of teams where they currently don’t exist.

“Amongst other things, these Town Teams play a vital role in helping communities access the wide range of funding available from my Department under various schemes”

This funding follows on from the recent announcement of €780,000 which will support the development of a Town Centre First Plan in a further 26 towns. These plans represent the communities own vision for the future of their towns.

To find out more about the Town Centre First policy, the Town Centre First Suite of Supports 2024 and how towns can become involved, visit www.towncentrefirst.ie.

ENDS

NOTES TO EDITOR:

Our Rural Future

Our Rural Future is the whole-of-government policy for rural Ireland for the period 2022-2025. It represents a new milestone in the approach to rural development policy for Ireland and adopts a more strategic, ambitious and holistic approach to investing in and maximising opportunities for rural areas. The policy’s objectives will be achieved through the delivery of more than 150 commitments to be implemented across a range of government departments and agencies. Economic, social and environmental sustainability is at the heart of *Our Rural Future*.

Town Centre First

Town Centre First contains 33 unique actions which will give our towns the tools and resources they need to become more viable and attractive places in which to live, work, visit and run a business. Town Regeneration Officers in all relevant Local Authority areas are being funded by the Department to drive forward Town Centre First on a local level.

The National Town Centre First Office is a key driver of Town Centre First, capturing good practice and building the skills and competencies of Town Regeneration Officers, town teams and local authorities to deliver Town Centre First.

Town Regeneration Officers & Town Teams

Town Regeneration Officers support the establishment and ongoing work of Town Teams, providing technical, communications, administrative and project management assistance to Town Teams and supporting key stakeholders in

accessing available funding. They are an essential link between Town Teams and the Local Authority.

A Town Team is a group of local residents, business people, community representatives and other stakeholders who come together to make their area a better place to live, work, visit and invest. They represent diverse sectors and backgrounds. They have a unique position in the community to become 'local experts' in their area and to take a lead on the development of interventions that can make positive long-term changes for the town.

**Selected Towns & Total Funding for the Town Centre First Suite of Supports
2024 Measure 1: Town Centre First Town Team Support Fund**

Local Authority	Town 1	Town 2	Town 3	Total Funding
Cavan	Cavan	Belturbet	N/A	€20,000
Clare	Lisdoonvarna	Tulla	Clarecastle	€30,000
Cork	Macroon	Bantry	Mitchelstown	€30,000
Donegal	Creeshlough	Ballybofey	Buncrana	€30,000
Fingal	Ballyboughal	Donabate	Balrothery	€30,000
Galway	Headford	An Cheathrú Rua	Oranmore	€30,000
Kerry	Castleisland	Dingle	Ballybunion	€30,000
Kildare	Monasterevin	Kilcullen	Ballymore Eustace	€30,000
Kilkenny	Castlecomer	Mooncoin	Callan	€30,000
Laois	Mountrath	Ballylinan	N/A	€20,000
Leitrim	Ballinamore	Kinlough	Dromahair	€30,000
Limerick	Newcastle West	Kilmallock	Askeaton	€30,000
Longford	Granard	N/A	N/A	€10,000
Louth	Castlebellingham	Collon	N/A	€20,000
Mayo	Swinford	Crossmolina	Balla	€30,000
Meath	Stamullen	Duleek	Kells	€30,000
Monaghan	Clones	Castleblayney	Monaghan	€30,000
Offaly	Kilmalogue	Daingean	N/A	€20,000
Roscommon	Ballaghaderreen	Monksland	Boyle	€30,000
Sligo	Enniscrone	Collooney	Ballisodare	€30,000
Tipperary	Nenagh	Thurles	Cashel	€30,000
Waterford	Lismore	Kill	N/A	€20,000
Westmeath	Kinnegad	Kilbeggan	Rochfortbridge	€30,000
Wexford	Taghmon	Castlebridge	Bunclody	€30,000
Wicklow	Baltinglass	Rathdrum	Kilcoole	€30,000
	25	24	19	
TOTAL			68 Towns	€680,000

**Towns Selected to complete Town Centre First Plans as part of the Town
Centre First Suite of Supports 2024**

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	Castlerea
Sligo	Ballymote
Tipperary	Carrick On Suir
Waterford	Dunmore East
Westmeath	Castlepollard
Wexford	Courtown / Riverchapel
Wicklow	Newtownmountkennedy