

Cities and towns to benefit from €26 million in EU funding

Aid for the Gateway cities and Hub town's projects in the Southern and Eastern (S&E) programme area is provided through the Designated Urban Centres Grant Scheme 2014 – 2020. This scheme is financed under the ERDF cofunded S&E Regional Programme, managed by the [Southern Regional Assembly](#).

The announcement of the awards on Tuesday 19th January involves a total ERDF funding of approximately €40 million across the two regional programmes. Speaking at the announcement of the grant package in Government Buildings, the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government, Mr. Alan Kelly TD said “*I am very pleased that sustainable urban development is being prioritised for this funding, and that investment of this size is being leveraged for these projects with the support of the ERDF grants as announced today*”.

A combined investment of €76.4 m in projects in the Gateways and Hubs across the Southern and Eastern programme area will be delivered under the scheme. The ERDF contribution in the S&E programme region will be €26 million.

Both Cork City and the hub town of Mallow will enjoy funding under the scheme.

The Gateway city of Cork will divide their funding between two projects. The first of these projects is the development of the Marina Park area to provide a contemporary City Park with a focus on water based activities, play and a range of event spaces. In conjunction with the Marina Park development there are plans to change the perception of the Monahan Road area from that of an industrial area to an attractive office location by making environmental enhancements on an interim basis pending the long term development of the raised and widened road.

The second Cork City project consists of the provision of a dedicated cycle and pedestrian bridge across the North Channel of the River Lee linking Merchants Quay to Harley Street. The new bridge will be highly visible from routes along the city quays and from the existing



St Patrick's Bridge and Brian Boru Bridge the aim being to create a new landmark for the city.

The Mallow project aims to redevelop the town hall as an Arts & Cultural Centre. The centre will retain the existing tourism office and will provide facilities such as a café, studio/workshop space and youth bank facility.

“We must continue to strive to improve the urban living experience, this means investment in a range of initiatives that conspire to make our cities and towns desirable places to live, work and recreate” said Cllr. Damien Geoghegan, Cathaoirleach, Southern Regional Assembly. “The planned Urban Development investment under the S&E Regional Programme is a clear demonstration of this commitment to improve the quality of life of the residents of those cities and towns” Cllr Geoghegan concluded.

Agreeing, Mr. Stephen Blair, Director, Southern Regional Assembly pointed to the success of previous funding under the ERDF co-funded Gateways Grant Scheme “the breadth of projects proposed under the scheme announced today is a clear demonstration of need for investment in our urban settings, but critically the successful projects form a part of an integrated plan for their respective cities and towns. This strategic approach to planning and investment will ultimately yield more long-term dividends towards sustainable and enhanced urban living”.

ENDS/

For immediate release

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Note to Editors:

The [Southern Regional Assembly](#), established on 1st January 2015, is one of three Assemblies in the Republic of Ireland following on from the dissolution of the BMW and





Southern & Eastern Regional Assemblies. The former 8 regional authorities and 2 regional assemblies were consolidated under the Government's regional reform process under the Local Government Reform Act 2014 to form the Southern, the [Northern and Western](#) and the [Eastern and Midland](#) regions.

What do we do?

Manage and monitor the ERDF co-financed Regional Programmes;
Promote the co-ordination of public services in the region;
Monitor and make proposals in relation to the general impact in the region of EU funding;
Make public bodies aware of the regional implications of their policies and plans.

