

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.

All four Dublin local authorities will enjoy funding under the scheme with the Dublin City Project to include the Forbes Street Pedestrian and Cycle Bridge.

The Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown (DLR) project will involve the regeneration of the bath pavilion. The intention is to retain and upgrade the existing baths pavilion and fit out to accommodate studio space for artists, and to provide a gallery and café facilities. The dilapidated outbuildings to side and rear will be removed and a new outdoor ‘café terrace’ will be created, and other public realm works will also be completed.

DLR Co. Co. plan the creation of pedestrian and cycle routes through the pavilion to town centre with a new pedestrian route created to connect the walkway at Newtownsmith with the East Pier



Finally their plans include and swimming facilities and jetty with changing area and jetty for swimmers & other water users will be created.

The South Dublin project will involve works on the Dodder Valley Greenway. The Greenway is a strategic route in the National Transport Agency Greater Dublin Area cycle network Plan, which is planned to run from Dublin Docklands to the Dublin Mountains.

The Fingal project will see investment in the Swords Castle Cultural and Civic Quarter involving alterations and improvements to the castle to make it more accessible as both a heritage tourist attraction and public amenity. Fingal Co. Co. plan to include work on the North Street Buildings & Heritage Route. This will involve redeveloping derelict buildings that wrap around the Castle and currently block access and the development of a heritage route along the east wall. Civic Quarter Public Realm improvements in vicinity of Swords Castle will form a part of the intervention too.

“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”.

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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.

