

### **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 19<sup>th</sup> 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.

The Waterford City project will entail carrying out high quality accessible public realm improvements and balance transport modes. It will improve access and encourage the proposed new retail shopping initiative at the southern end of the retail spine to improve the city's retail offer.

Together with regeneration of substantial brownfield sites in the city centre, the project will also see the introduction of a comprehensive sustainable urban mobility plan, which gives priority to sustainable modes of transport.

The night time activity will also be addressed by creating an all-weather space in the Apple Market. A continuous high grade mostly pedestrianised 'retail spine' will run for over a ½ kilometre and this will be connected to the Viking Triangle by high grade public realm improvements. The scheme has been devised to encourage greater uptake of cycling by



dedicated lanes & shared surfaces. Public transport routes are to be redesigned to penetrate through the core, paralleling the retail spine and creating a new 'hub' at Arundel Square.

“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 people of Waterford, building on the notable strides achieved to date in the Viking Triangle and elsewhere throughout the city” 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.

