Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

Town Centre First & Funding Opportunities

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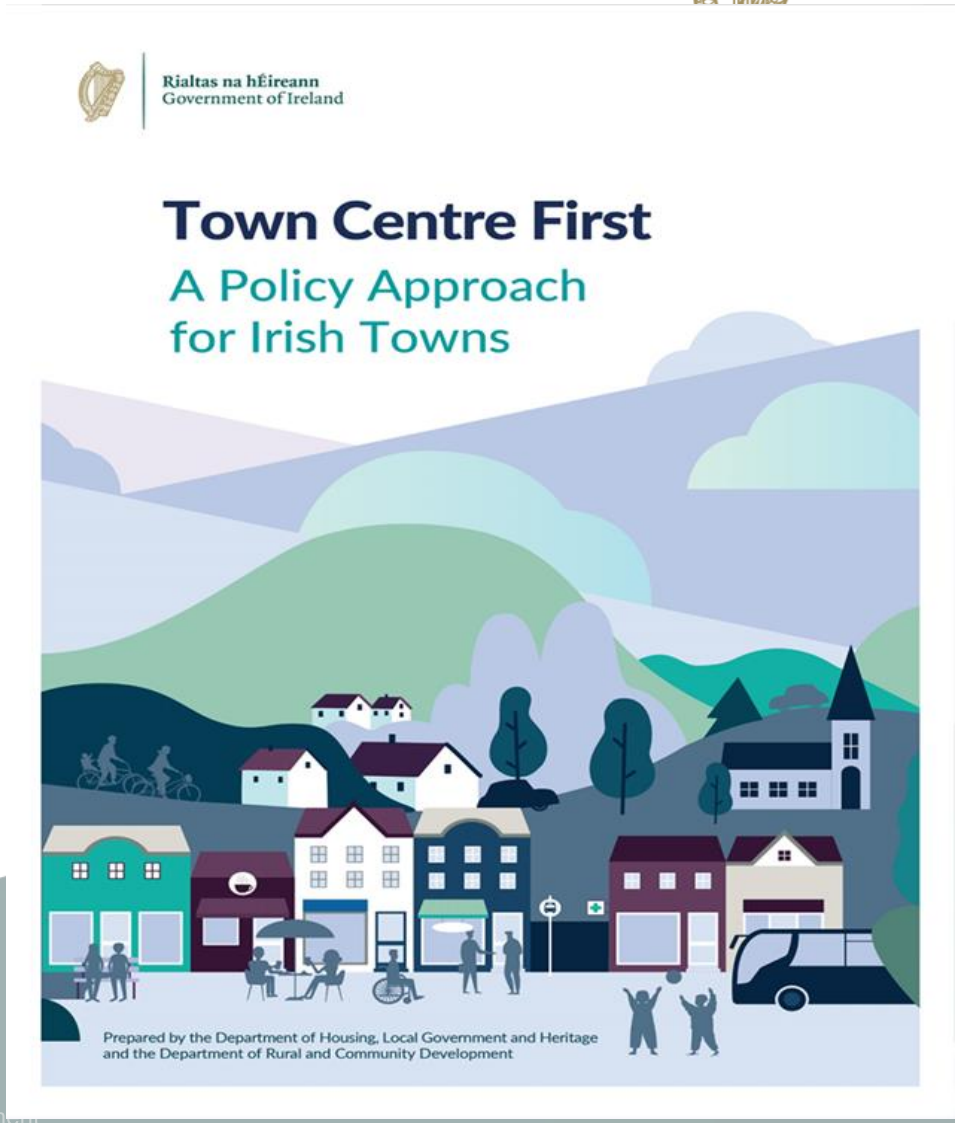
Town Centre First Policy

"The Town Centre First policy aims to create town centres that function as viable, vibrant and attractive locations for people to live, work and visit…."

- Commitment in Our Rural Future
- Cross-Government Partnership to address challenges and opportunities
- Builds upon existing best practice in a co-ordinated way
- Gain maximum impact from public investment
- 33 Actions



TCF: Local Delivery

- Tailored approach - every town is unique
- A bottom-up process
- Plan-led, place-based
- Focus on concrete actions and interventions

Local Authority and Town Regeneration Officer
Supporting and enabling the Town Team and local TCF delivery

Multi-stakeholder Town Team
Driving TCF delivery through a team of local business and community representatives and other stakeholders

Town Health Check
Providing detailed analysis to help understand the town

Town Centre First Plan
Outlining a comprehensive vision for the town, covering key themes and identifying specific interventions

Investment Programme
Accessing funding and supports in place to support TCF

Delivery and Impact
Delivering on the vision outlined in the TCF Plan

Town Centre First: Enabling our Towns

- Capacity building and supports at national and local level– including network of Town Regeneration Officers and National TCF Office
- TCF Plans– funding, guidance & support
- Toolkit – web portal, access to funding streams, guidance, best practice
- Improved understanding of our towns– Health check and data/research at national level
- Co-ordinated and focused investment supports – RRDF, URDF, Town & Village Renewal, ERDF, Croi Conaithe etc.

Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF)

- Towns and villages with a population of less than 10,000, and outlying areas.
- Funding of over €278m for 191 projects across Ireland, worth a total of €376m
- 69% of approved projects will develop or deliver a town centre regeneration project.
- Category 1 - fourth call announced in December with strong emphasis on town and village regeneration

- Focus on:
  - revitalising rural towns and villages through planned and sustainable regeneration; and
  - providing the necessary facilities and infrastructure in rural communities in terms of remote working, connectivity, town centre residency, economic and enterprise development etc., which will assist in attracting people back to live in rural areas.
  - Addressing vacancy and dereliction in town centres

Projects allocated funding include town and village regeneration, enterprise development, tourism development, digital and co-working initiatives, libraries, arts and cultural facilities. Projects are often a combination of a number of these elements.

Town & Village Renewal Scheme (TVRS)

- Funding to support the revitalisation of our towns and villages

- €113 million approved for almost 1,400 projects since 2016: €19 million in last few weeks

- Refocused Scheme in 2021 to support *Our Rural Future* –
  - *Emphasis on vacancy & dereliction, and town centre living*
  - *Bringing vacant properties back into use as remote working hubs*
  - *Green spaces and recreational amenities*
  - *Funding levels increased – maximum grant from €200,000 to €500,000*
  - *Project development measure introduced*

- Budget increased by €2 million in 2022. Launch in April

Town & Village Renewal Scheme- Streetscapes Enhancement

- Action 48 of *Our Rural Future* – upgrade and enhancement of shopfronts and street facdes
- €7 million in 2021 for 120 towns and villages
- Painting, murals, shopfronts, lighting of architectural features, planting, furniture, canopies
- 2022 – launch later this month

Previous TVRS Funding – New Ross

Other Supports

Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme

- Development and enhancement of outdoor recreational infrastructure such as walking trails, forest walks, beaches, bogs, lakes, blueways and local greenways.
- Open for applications
- 3 measures: €30,000, €200,000, €500,000

CLÁR Programme

- Small scale infrastructural projects in rural areas – open for applications
- Measure 1: Developing Community Facilities & Amenities (€50,000)
- Measure 2: Mobility, Cancer Care and Community First Responders Transport (€100,000)
- Measure 3: Our Islands (€120,000)

River House
Restaurant
Café Bar
River House
Gifts &
Fashion
The Gatehouse

Thank You