

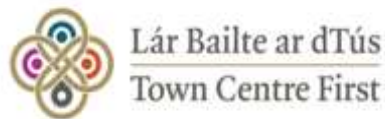


Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

Guidelines for Expressions of Interest for Project Development Measure (PDM) 2024



This Project Development Measure (PDM) is one Measure under the Town and Village Renewal Programme as part of the Town Centre First Suite of Supports announced by the Department of Community and Rural Development, February 2024.



Rialtas
na hÉireann
Government
of Ireland

Ár dTodhchaí
Tuaithe
Our Rural
Future



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

Project Development Measure - Summary

- Expressions of Interest are now open for Proposals that will be considered and shortlisted for Project Development. A maximum of three shortlisted proposals can be submitted by Galway County Council to the Department of Community and Rural Development under the Project Development Measure.
- This Measure offers a maximum of 50,000 for Project Development Funding at a grant rate of 95%. Funding may be awarded under this Measure for costs such as detailed design, planning, procurement, professional fees, assessments and other development costs.
- Deadline for Submission of Expressions of Interest (EOI) for Project Development Measure (PDM) to Galway County Council is **Friday March 15th, 2024**, at 5.00pm.
- The Council then shortlists Expression of Interest and can submit up to a maximum of three applications to the Department of Community and Rural Development by April 8th 2024.
- Please note; 'A Call for Applications for Capital Projects under the Main Town and Village Renewal Scheme will be subject to Department of Community and Rural Development calls. **This call is for EOI for Project Development Measure only.**

Section 1: Overview & Type of Activities

This Measure is supported by the Town and Village Renewal Programme as set out by the Department of Community and Rural Development. The Measure arises from a recent suite of supports for Town Centre First. The Town Centre First (TCF) policy is a major cross-government policy that aims to tackle vacancy, combat dereliction and breathe new life into our town centres. It supports "Our Rural Future", Ireland's rural development policy which is integral to our national economic, social, cultural and environmental well-being. It advocates for a holistic, place-based approach to sustainable rural development.

The policy seeks to support towns of all sizes, recognising each town is unique and diverse and acknowledges that a "one size fits all" approach will not achieve sustainable and thriving communities.

This measure will compliment other funding initiatives within the Department, including the main Town and Village Renewal Scheme and the Rural Regeneration Development Fund.

Section 2: Supported Measures - Project Development Measure (PDM)

The purpose of this measure is to assist Local Authorities and Approved Applicants to contribute to a pipeline of significant, well-developed projects which might be subsequently progressed to construction stage, subject to the availability of further funding. Funding may be awarded for costs such as detailed design, planning, procurement, professional fees, assessments and other development costs.

The focus of this Measure, as part of the overall Town and Village Renewal Scheme, is revitalisation of rural Ireland through town and village centre economic and social recovery and regeneration. Given the focus proposals based in settlements and town and village centres will be prioritised.

Category 1: Towns and villages with a population of up to 5,000 people.

Category 2: Towns with a population of 5,001 to 10,000 people.

Category 3: Larger towns with a population of up to 15,000 people may be eligible where the application is of a high quality and outlines a strong need for the investment, good value for money and positive outcomes that will have a substantial impact on the town.

In addition, inhabited offshore islands are deemed to be eligible and are actively encouraged to apply.

The type of activities that may be considered for project development but not limited to include:

- Proposals that seek to development projects that support investment in infrastructure to support town and village centres or to enable development of town regeneration,
- Projects bringing vacant and derelict buildings back into use as multi-purpose community spaces, or to address remote working needs;
- Investing in the development of parks, green spaces and recreational amenities in town or village centres, plazas, markets, examination of suitable sites;
- Refurbishment to existing community facilities and centres
- Projects to support vibrant and sustainable island communities on Ireland's inhabited offshore islands;
- Projects that include nature-based solutions or contain a strong sustainability approach;

- Projects that focus on accessibility for all and inclusivity should be to the fore when developing project proposals for the community;
- Projects arising from Town Centre First Plans;

Local authorities (in the North-West Region including Co. Galway) , in consultation with the Town Regeneration Officer and local communities, may detail three project applications under this measure up to a maximum value of €50,000 per application at a grant rate of 95% of the total project costs per project application and a minimum match funding rate of 5% of the total project costs.

The approval of funding under this category does not automatically guarantee future funding under alternative funding streams for delivery of the emerging projects. The resulting approved projects which are progressed as part of the Project Development Measure will need to be submitted as normal under the competitive funding processes.

PDM's have previous been supported through the Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2021 & 2022 and are similar in nature to Category 2 projects under the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund.

Funding under this measure must be used for this sole purpose of developing the approved PDM projects and cannot be used in conjunction with other supported measures under this initiative.

Section 3: Expression of Interest & Assessment Process for Project Development Measure

Local authorities are required to advertise for expressions of interest from towns/villages in their area for the Project Development Measure.

The P.D.M Expression of Interest Form must be used to submit your EOI to Galway County Council.

Galway County Council will progress a maximum of 3 proposals for submission to the Department of Community & Rural Development for their review and consideration.

The development of these proposals must be undertaken in consultation with the appointed Town Regeneration Officer and the local town/village community and business interests. Full involvement by community interests and/or business interests will be an essential feature of successful projects. Ideally, projects will have been identified as part of a town plan, health check or similar study, produced for the town or village. Projects that cannot demonstrate that a consultative process has been undertaken to ascertain the views of local community and businesses will not be permitted.

The final selection of PDM projects for funding will be undertaken by the Department of Community and Rural Development by means of a competitive process. When selecting the successful projects, in line with the Public Spending Code, the Department will give consideration to the past performance of the local authority in delivering previous projects under the scheme. Final project selection will be made by the Department on the basis of proposals submitted by the local authorities (which are shortlisted from Expression of Interest)

The assessment and approval of all projects will have regard to a number of factors including alignment with Our Rural Future; TCF plan; the statutory development planning system; additional Department priorities; available funding; the range, mix, quality and impact of proposed projects; past project delivery performance of local authorities; previous funding provided and all other relevant considerations.

The Department will give particular consideration to project proposals in a TCF (Town Centre First) plan that are supported by relevant development objectives in any local area plan or development plan of the local authority. Additional marks as part of the competitive assessment process will be available for applications that demonstrates evidence of this.

Projects that include nature-based solutions or contain a strong sustainability focus will be given additional examination and may be considered more favourably. A focus on accessibility for all and inclusivity should be to the fore when developing project proposals for the community.

Section 4 – Funding Conditions Summary Overview

Project Development Measure (PDM):

- The maximum funding amount available is €50,000 per project with a grant rate of 95%
- The match funding requirement of 5% for North West Counties, of the total project costs must be contributed by the local authority and/or the community and/or philanthropic contributions. This must take the form of a cash contribution. Funds secured from existing Department of Rural and Community Development schemes or programmes or other public funding streams are not eligible to be used as matched funding.
- Funding drawdown requests must be based on vouched (spent) expenditure.
- Evidence of all costs incurred in respect of completing the PDM, and a Case Study report on the completed project.

- Projects must be fully completed and drawdown submitted to the Department within the **12–18-month completion timeframe**. Final deadline date will be notified to LAs on announcement of successful projects.
- The successful grantee should maintain a project file in relation to all projects supported under this Initiative. All documentation/files should contain all relevant document in relation to procurement of contractors to complete the project, and/or records relating to local authority staff time associated with completion of all projects under these measures.
- Full and accurate documentation to support all expenditure should be maintained in the project file and be accessible for audit purposes, for a period of six years from the date of completion.
- The Department has the right to disclose for the purposes of a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2014 or otherwise, in connection with the TCF - Suite of Supports measures.
 - any information supplied by the local authority to the Department;
 - any relevant data gathered by the Department in administering grant aid in respect of the TCF plans, except where the information is considered to be personal or commercially sensitive.
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- The local authority and Department agree that they are subject to the data protection and privacy laws of Ireland and the EU, in particular the Data Protection Act 2018 and Regulation (EU) 2016/679, known as the EU General Data Protection Regulation (“GDPR”).

Section 5 – Expression of Interest Deadline and Submissions

Expressions of Interest (EOI) are now sought by Galway County Council, from Business Representative Groups, Community and Voluntary Groups for the 2024 Town and Village Renewal **Project Development Measure**. (PDM).

Completed Expression of Interest Forms must be submitted by Friday March 15th to Galway County Council using the online Form and attachments.

To discuss your proposal or EOI with the team or can email us at tandv@galwaycoco.ie . Tel: 091-378850/091-509396/ or Contact Eímear Dolan 091-509334 Community & Rural Development Unit.