



Department of Rural and Community Development

Funding Opportunities CTCHC Workshop Monaghan

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Rural policy and Schemes June 2018

New Department

- Department of Rural and Community Development, established 2017
- Minister Michael Ring with Minister of State Sean Kyne
- Focus on Sustainable Rural and Community Development
- Action Plan for Rural Ireland – Realising our Rural Potential is a big driver of what we do
- More recently – Project Ireland 2024
- Working across Government and with Agencies/Communities to deliver on priorities

Action Plan for Rural Development

- Changing the narrative around rural Ireland
- To unlock both the **economic and social** potential of rural Ireland
- ...So that people who live in rural areas have:
 - increased **opportunities for employment**,
 - **access to public services** and **social networks**
 - that support a **high quality of life**.
- No “one-size-fits-all” solution – every rural town, every community has its own challenges and strengths
- Aim is to unlock the strengths in each area

Capital Funding Schemes

- LEADER 2014 - 2020
- Local Improvement Scheme
- CLÁR
- REDZ
- Town and Village Renewal
- Outdoor Recreation

LEADER 2014 2020

- €250 Million EU co-funded programme over 7 years
- 3 themes
 - Economic Development and Job Creation
 - Social Inclusion
 - Rural Environment
- Operated via Local Action Groups (LAGs)
- Very slow to take off but project approvals accelerating
- More than 1,000 projects approved and 300 more going through the approvals process
 - Mix of open calls and ongoing application
 - Open to community groups, individuals and small businesses

Local Improvement Scheme

- Scheme to fund the repair of small privately owned rural roads, available for public use, facilitate access to farms and other rural enterprises
- Used to be funded by DTTAS
- Operated via the Local Authorities
- Reopened by DRCD in 2017
- €16.9m spent in 2017 on 723 roads projects
- €10.8m allocated in 2018 to 490 roads projects currently underway
- May have a second round later in the summer

CLÁR

- Originally launched in 2001 to provide for targeted investment in disadvantaged rural areas.
- Areas covered based on an average of 50% population decline between 1926 – 2006
- By 2006 the programme covered parts of 23 counties, average population decline of 35%
- Operated on the basis of top – up's or co – funding with Local Authorities or other funding Departments
- Closed to new applications in 2010
- Reopened in a limited way in 2016 via Local Authorities

CLÁR

- Run again in 2017 – 4 measures
 - School/Community safety measures
 - Play Areas
 - Community Infrastructure
 - First Response – directly with Communities
- Funding initially available - €5m however €7m finally approved for 230 projects
- Run again in 2018 – 3 measures
- More than 400 applications received
- €5m indicated and successful projects due to be announced very soon – most likely to be more than €5m.
- Intend to review CLÁR designation later in the year
- Will be consulting relevant stakeholders
- Hope to revise and expand further in 2019

Rural Economic Development Zones (REDZ)

- REDZ are geographic areas that reflect the spatial patterns of economic activity and development
- The original concept includes not just the town or village but also the functional area around it – hinterland
- Pilot scheme launched in 2015 with a follow up in 2016
- €3.8m to 51 projects in 2015
- €6.1m to 47 projects in 2016
- Not run in 2017 but concept built into other schemes

Town and Village Renewal

- First launched in 2016
- Fixed allocation of €380k to each County
- €9.98m approved for 170 projects
- 2017 scheme launched in April 2017
- **No** fixed allocations – fully competitive process, €21.6m approved to 281 projects
- Projects in line the REDZ concept encouraged
- Projects expected to be completed over 18 months
- 2 categories of town
 - <5,000
 - >5,000 but <10,000
 - 60% of funding at a minimum to the < 5,000 towns

Town and Village Renewal 2018

- 2018 scheme currently open - launched 27th of April
- Operated via Local Authorities in collaboration with Communities/towns etc
- Local Authorities invited to submit up to 12 applications each
- Strong focus on economic development and job creation
- Generally grants range from €20k up to €100k with a small number of up to €200k grants awarded for exceptional projects with a very strong economic focus
- Closing date for applications – **30th June**

Types of Projects

- Supporting entrepreneurship – Food/Enterprise/Digital Hubs, Hot desks, training facilities
- Integrated approaches to developing individual sectors
- Collaboration between town centre businesses and the town environs/hinterland
- Targeted actions to tackle minor infrastructural issues
- Tourism initiatives
- Conducting/commissioning town/village health check
- Provision/enhancement of leisure facilities
- Enhancement of heritage/other community assets

Outdoor Recreation Scheme

- First launched in 2016 with €7.4m approved to
- In 2017 € 11.4m approved to 251 projects
- 2018 scheme currently open for applications - €12m available
- Funding for Outdoor Recreational Infrastructure
 - Not for organised sports
- Trail development incl. Blueways/Greenways
- Operated via Local Authorities, Local Development Companies and other Agencies
- 3 measures –
 - Small maintenance/upgrades up to €20k
 - Medium new development/upgrades up to €200k
 - Larger strategic development – up to €500k
- Closing dates M1 is 6th July and M's 2 and 3 is 27th July

Shannon Erne Blueway

- 2015 REDZ €200k – Blueway development
- 2016 REDZ €200k – Taste of Leitrim Food and Tourism Enterprise Zone in Carrick on Shannon
- 2016 Outdoor Recreation €500k
 - to develop the floating boardwalk to join the Lough Allen Canal to Acres Lake
- 2017 T&V €200k – Drumshanbo Food Enterprise Zone
- 2017 Outdoor Recreation €955k
 - to develop the Blueway from Ck-on-Shannon – Leitrim Village, along Lough Allen Canal to Acres Lake - Drumshanbo

Acres Lake - Drumshanbo



Acres Lake - Drumshanbo

- Significant boost to the local economy
- 100,000 visitors experienced the blueway in the first 18 months
- Almost 11,500 visitors on the boardwalk in May alone
- Visitors valued at €45 each to the local area
- 6 new activity companies have been established
- The café in Drumshanbo now operates 7 days
- Full case study on Leitrim investments is planned when the 2017 projects have been completed

Funding 2016 - 2018

	Total Scheme funding approved/ available in		
Scheme	2016	2017	2018
CLÁR	€8.2m	€7m	€5m
Town and Village Renewal	€10m	€21.6m	€15m
Outdoor Recreation	€7.4m	€11.4m	€12m
Local Improvement Scheme	n/a	€16.9m	€10.8m
REDZ	€6.1m	n/a	n/a
Total	€32.20	€56.9m	€42.8m

Project Ireland 2020 -2040

- €1billion Rural Regeneration Fund
- Fund to support the revitalisation of Rural Ireland
- Important to note that this will be **in addition** to existing schemes
- Co-ordinated and collaborative projects between Departments, Agencies, Local Authorities and other public bodies that will have an impact on sustainable community and economic development
- Towns/hinterlands less than 10,000 population
- Not confined to towns

Project Ireland 2020 -2040

- Additional €1billion over the period 2019 – 2027
- Of that €315m over 2019 – 2022
- €55m, €80m, €80m and €100m
- Leverage fund 75%/25%
- Min project size - €500k
- Likely to be multiannual
- First call – end June 2018
- Approved projects commence – Early 2019
- Second Call – Spring 2019



Thank You

Questions??