

Programme
for Government

European
Union

Collaborative
Town Centre
Health Check
Programme

Workshop Briefing Pack



Historic Town Centres in Ireland, the EU Green Deal and Creation of SEA Indicators

A Stakeholder Workshop from
The Heritage Council's CTCHC
Programme and Partners

2pm 25th February 2021



Workshop Organiser: Ali Harvey aharvey@heritagecouncil.ie



An Chomhairle Oidhreachta
The Heritage Council



“Over the long term, places with strong, distinctive identities are more likely to prosper than places without them. Every place must identify its strongest, most distinctive features and develop them or run the risk of being all things to all persons and nothing special to any....”

Nobel Prize Laureate Robert Merton Solow

1. Background to the CTCHC Programme:

From Project Charter (2016) to the Programme for Government (PfG, 2020)

Ireland’s Collaborative Town Centre Health Check (CTCHC) Programme, created by the Heritage Council and its Partners in Autumn 2016, aims to establish a collaborative and robust approach to undertaking Town Centre Health Checks in Irish Towns. This is to guide the design, delivery, and evaluation of evidence-based regeneration, socio-economic development and investment programmes – both public and private – at national and international levels. The CTCHC Programme supports the implementation of the **EU Green Deal, the New Bauhaus Movement for Europe** and **Project Ireland 2040**, particularly in relation to the stated National Strategic Outcomes, National Policy Objectives and Strategic Investment Priorities. The NPF (Section 1.2), entitled *Making the Vision a Reality*, includes the powerful statement:

“A major new policy emphasis on renewing and developing existing settlements will be required, rather than the continual expansion and sprawl of cities and towns out into the countryside at the expense of town centres”

The CTCHC Programme, which includes 70+ partner groups, is based on the premise that changing demographics and living/travel to work patterns, along with changing consumer preferences and trends, are all impacting on the overall vitality and viability of our historic town centres. The Covid-19 Pandemic has vastly exacerbated the complex and multi-faceted challenges facing historic town centres in Ireland. Indeed, many historic town centres were already struggling before the lockdown.

Robust data and indicators that qualify and verify the overall performance and sustainability of historic town centres need to be radically progressed and upgraded in Ireland, as part of effective monitoring and evaluation processes and systems, as per EU Funding Programme requirements. This workshop (1 of 2 planned workshops) aims to strengthen innovative partnerships to enable ‘winning pathways’ to be put in place to support the transition and transformation of Ireland’s town centres for the benefit of existing and future generations.

A detailed *business case* for the innovative CTCHC Programme is set out in the Project Charter (16 pages), which was prepared during the conception and initiation phase of the programme in 2016: www.heritagecouncil.ie/content/files/town_centre_health_check_project_charter.pdf

Ireland's Collaborative Town Centre Health Check (CTCHC) Programme

How We Work?



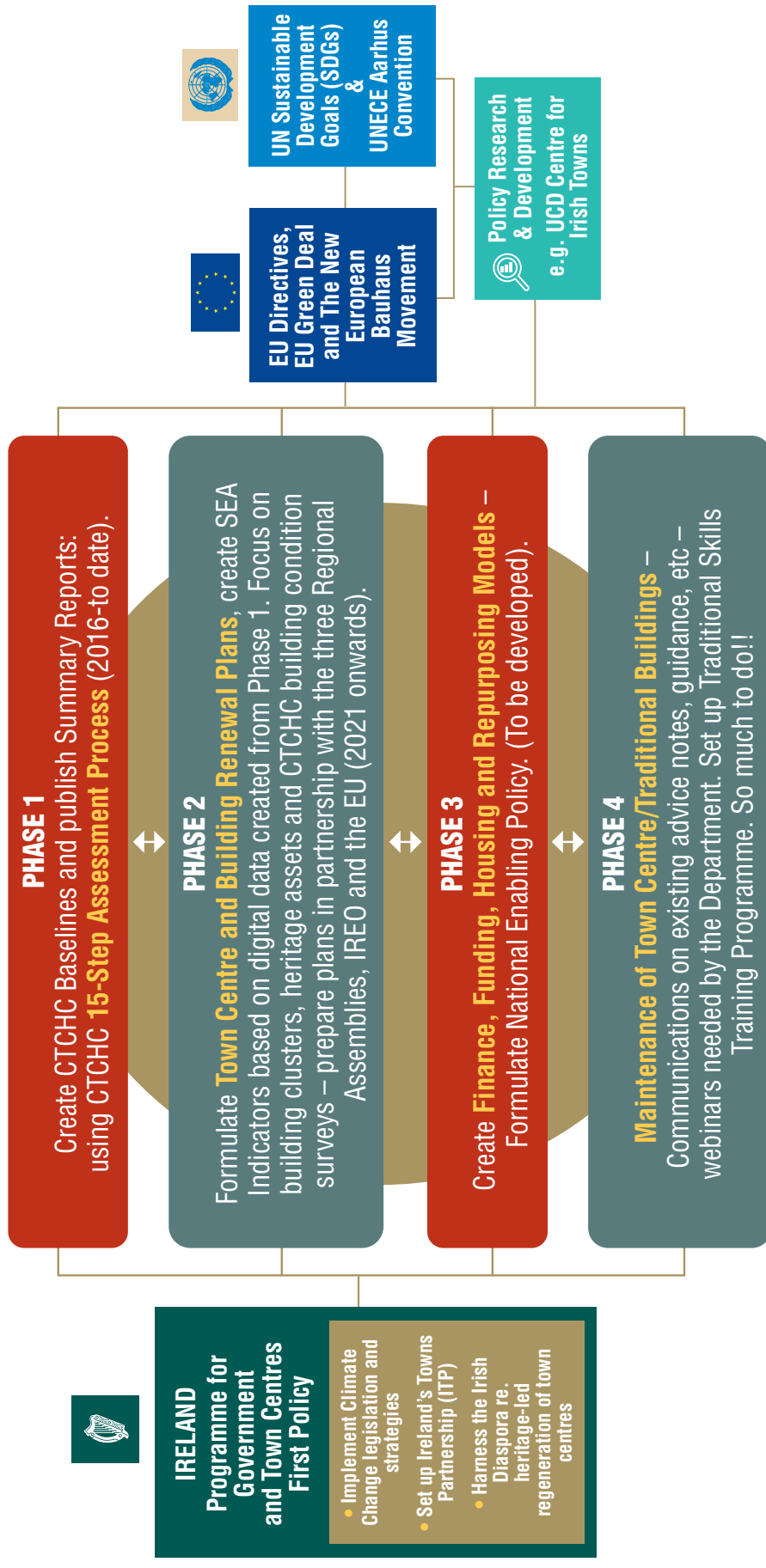
The day-to-day operations of the CTCHC Programme since 2016 (i.e. Phase 1 = CTCHC Baselines using a 15-Step methodology), along with the programme's published outputs and summary reports, have clearly identified that in order to repurpose and regenerate historic town centres in line with the EU Green Deal, Ireland requires a major policy shift towards **'Town Centres First'**. In pursuit of this policy shift, the CTCHC Programme started using/promoting this tag line in November 2019. A commitment to introducing and implementing a 'Town Centres First' policy has been included in the agreed Programme for Government published in June 2020 and the CTCHC Programme is included in the PFG, as follows:

"...We will Prioritise a Town Centres First collaborative and strategic approach to regeneration of our villages and towns, using the Collaborative Town Centre Health Check (CTCHC) framework to gather data and lead actions...."

This workshop and the planned second workshop in April 2021 fit into the overall design and planning for Phase 2 of the CTCHC Programme currently underway, which will support the Regional Assemblies policy objectives for Town Renewal Plans – it is envisaged that all the partners will work towards the design of Town and Building Renewal Plans, which embrace the EU Green Deal, and the call for a New Bauhaus Movement for Europe and EC Directives including the SEA Directive, INSPIRE Directives, etc. There are four phases planned for the CTCHC Programme as illustrated on the next page.

Ireland's Collaborative Town Centre Health Check (CTCHC) Programme

4 KEY PHASES



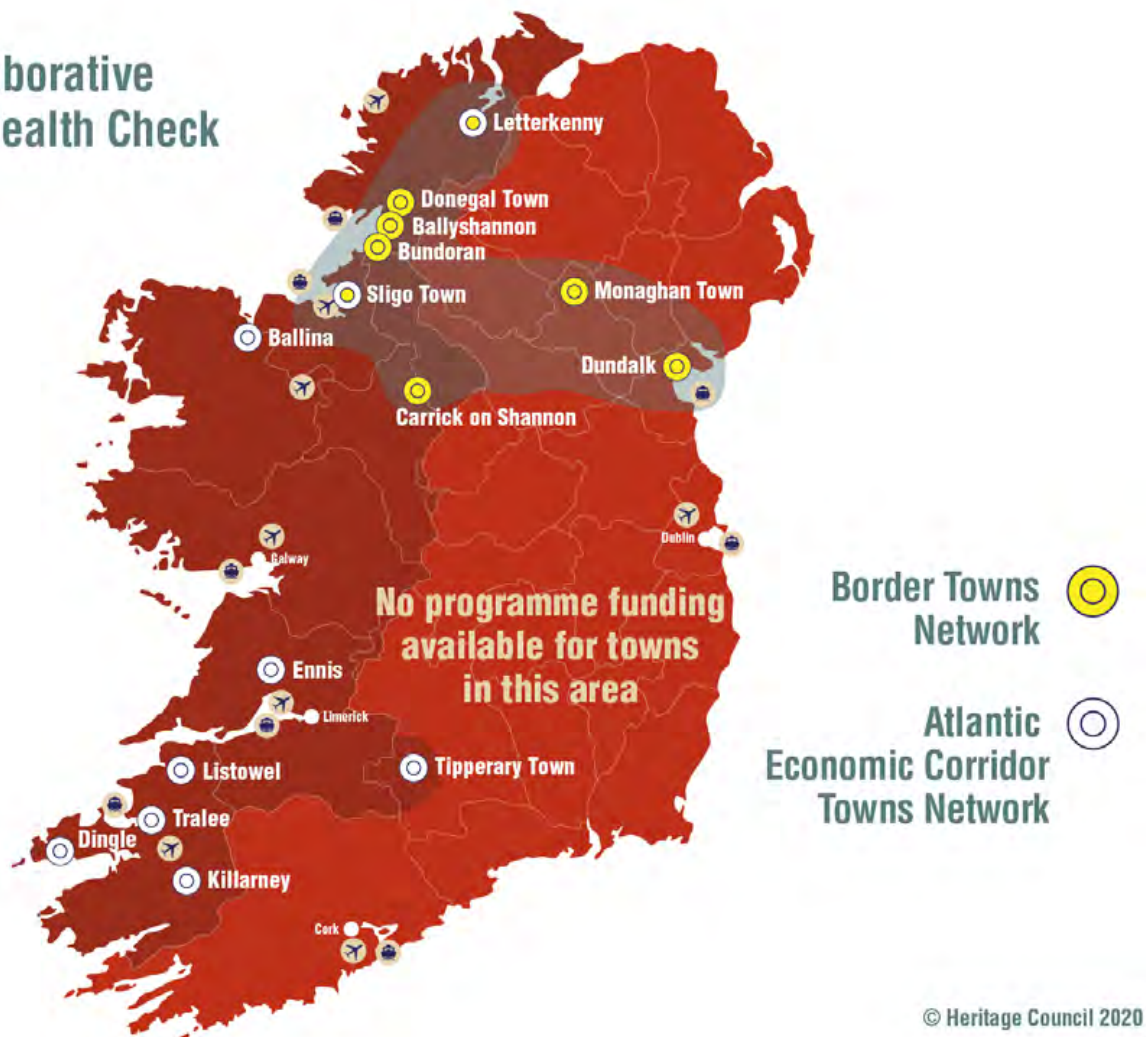
© A. Harvey, Heritage Council 2021

An Chomhairle Oidhreachta
The Heritage Council



At present, there are 15 towns in Phase 1 of the CTCHC Programme waiting to move to Phase 2 and beyond. In addition, there are 20+ towns waiting to join the CTCHC Programme. Due to pressing demand for programme services, it is envisaged that the programme will have significant investment through the PfG during 2021.

Ireland's Collaborative Town Centre Health Check Programme



2. CTCHC Workshop – Key Purpose and Objectives

As noted above, the Programme for Government (PfG) includes a firm commitment to formulate and deliver a *Town Centres First Policy* to support the regeneration and repurposing of our historic town centres, in accordance with the EU Green Deal, etc. In support of this commitment, it will be necessary to get the 'joined-upness' right – i.e. at present, there are lots of people doing lots of good work in various sectors, organisations and towns and there is a need to pull/ join it all together, in order to strengthen a national coherent and strategic approach to the strategic management of town centres in Ireland.

In line with the provisions of Ireland's Programme for Government, this online workshop has been designed with the following objectives - To:

- 1 Raise awareness and understanding of the EU Green Deal**, the call for a New Bauhaus Movement in Europe and resulting funding opportunities for exploring and creating data-based winning pathways, with other EU Member States - to ensure a meaningful transition and transformation of Ireland's town centres, in line with climate change targets and UN SDG Goals;
- 2 Encourage collaboration, co-operation and co-ordination** – 'the three Cs' - between key stakeholders involved in town centre management, regeneration and repurposing to inform the design of robust environmental indicators e.g. through SEA, that will enable public-private-civic investment programmes to be transparent, effective, and impactful in terms of value for money (VFM);
- 3 Strengthen partnership and trust between all partners/agencies**, civic society and various levels of government involved in the strategic management of town centres in Ireland to maximise synergies between the commercial, cultural, housing, heritage, civic, educational, sporting and infrastructural sectors that operate in these unique, historic shared spaces and places, to ensure human flourishing, social inclusion and a better quality of life for existing and future generations.



CTCHC Workshop – Programme

The CTCHC Workshop programme is set out below – it is an online format with four short presentations (15 mins max) broken into two sessions: European and National.

Our speakers are as follows:

European/EC:

1 Jonathan Claridge

EU Office, Dublin

2 Teresa Lennon

Head of Irish Regional European Office
(IREO), Brussels

National

3 Greg Straton

Department of Health
(Assistant Principal Officer)

4 Nicki Matthews

Department of Housing – Heritage Unit
(Senior Architect)

To Join Zoom Meeting from computer / other device

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87146778022?pwd=TEUONUdHZEHYVVD2ZmZVMmdTS2dUUT09>

Meeting ID: 871 4677 8022 **Passcode:** 770564

The presentations (two in each session) will be followed by breakout groups in virtual rooms for group discussions, responses by speakers and the use of participative tools including mentimeter. We strongly encourage you to use the online Chat facility – both to the group and to one another. We have one rule for the workshop – have fun and meet new friends!!

Please note the start time is 2pm (Ireland time!)



CTCHC Workshop – Organiser, Facilitator and Speakers



Organiser

Ali Harvey MSc BSc (Hons), PG Dip PM is a Programmes Manager with a background in planning and economics and she has 22 years' experience of setting up / running collaborative regeneration programmes in Ireland and the UK. Ali initiated/set up the all-island

Irish Walled Towns Network (IWTN) in 2005, wrote the first *IWTN Action Plan 2006–2008*, which secured funding of €4m. She set up the award-winning *Landscape Character Assessment CPD Training Course 2009–2011* with 10 no. professional institutes in Ireland and the Landscape Observatory of Catalonia, Spain.

Ali is author of the award-winning *Community-led VDS Toolkit, 2012* and is a member of EirGrid's National Advisory Committee (NAC). Ali set up the CTCHC Programme in 2016, which is included in Ireland's Programme for Government, (2020), and has 70+ partners and 15 member towns. There is a substantial waiting list of towns wanting to join the CTCHC Programme. Ali also co-ordinates the new CTCHC Podcast Series, which was launched in November 2020.

aharvey@heritagecouncil.ie



Facilitator

Chris Chapman is a leading creative facilitator of large and small events, both in Ireland and internationally. He has hosted many events and processes, where diverse participants have come together successfully in response to complex and often entrenched

problems. In recent years, he has led consultations on National Building Renovation Strategy, National Architecture Strategy and many other things. With a background originally in community development, Chris has worked extensively across public and private sectors helping to create inclusive and transformative cultures of engagement.

Chris has an MSc in Change Agent Skills and Strategies from the University of Surrey Business School, focussing on the interface between personal, organisational and societal change. He has a particular interest in society's transition to greater sustainability and how that happens.

chrischapmaninireland@gmail.com

European/EC



Speaker 1

Jonathan Claridge has been Head of Communication at the European Commission Representation in Ireland since September 2017. This is his second posting at the Representation, having previously worked there as Head of the Political Section.

His other postings with the European Commission include being Deputy Head of the EU Delegation in Tel Aviv and an EU negotiator at the World Trade Organisation (WTO). He started his career as an economist in the British civil service.



Speaker 2

Teresa Lennon has recently been appointed as the Head of the Irish Regions European Office in Brussels. She has overall responsibility for guiding local and regional authorities in Ireland through the EU policy and funding landscape.

Teresa returns to Brussels, having previously worked here, in the EU sphere for UK and U.S. business organisations, lobbying the EU institutions on the development of EU policy and funding programmes.

Before joining IREO, Teresa was Head of Research Development at Ulster University, in Northern Ireland where she was responsible for increasing the drawdown of research funding to the University. This included promoting the opportunities available from the EU's Horizon 2020 programme, INTERREG programmes, as well as UK and global funding sources. For 6 years before that, Teresa was Programme Manager at the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) and was responsible for managing Northern Ireland participation in a range of EU European Territorial Cooperation (INTERREG) funding programmes. She has also worked at the Northern Ireland Local Government Association (NILGA) building the capacity of local government to access EU funding and to shape EU policy development. Teresa has BA (Hons) in European Business Studies with French and an MBA, Masters of Business Administration, with Distinction, both from Ulster University.

National



Speaker 3

Greg Straton is an Assistant Principal Officer in the Health and Wellbeing Unit of the Department of Health. Before joining the Civil Service, he was the CEO of Treoir and previously the CEO of the Spiritan Asylum Services Initiative (SPIRASI). He was a member of

the Working Group to review the Protection Process for asylum seekers which formulated the McMahon report. Greg holds an Honours Degree in Public and Development Management from the University of Stellenbosch in his native South Africa and an MSc in Healthcare Leadership at the Irish management Institute under the HSE's Leading Care Programme.



Speaker 4

Nicki Matthews is a Senior Architect in the Built Heritage Policy in the Dept. of Housing, Local Government & Heritage with a wide ranging remit– policy development in terms of built heritage and urban regeneration, planning & development control,

with a particular focus on strategic infrastructure projects including strategic housing development and flood relief schemes. Her formative experience was whilst working in both the private and public sector on raising awareness of conservation best practice on the repair and reuse of historic buildings. Current projects include a new National Policy on Architecture – *Places for People*; engaging with built environmental stakeholders on key thematic areas of interest, one of which is town centres. This work has been informed by participation in an EU Commission Open Means of Communication working group on how a 'high quality architecture and built environment for everyone' can be achieved as part of the EU's recovery programmes. On-going contribution to built heritage regeneration has been made through several publications including most recently collaboration with RIAI on the recent *epublication*, *Old House New Home*. A guidance on early urban buildings integral to the integrity and character of historic urban centres is scheduled for publication this year.

3. CTCHC Workshop – Useful links and resources

Useful links and resources in relation to Town Centres in Ireland and further afield:

- https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/SPEECH_20_1655
- https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal_en
- https://europa.eu/new-european-bauhaus/call-partnerships_en
- <https://www.heritagecouncil.ie/projects/podcast-series-putting-town-centres-first>
- <https://www.heritagecouncil.ie/projects/town-centre-health-check-programme>
- <https://www.heritagecouncil.ie/content/files/Submission-on-the-Tipperary-County-Development-Plan-2022-2028-Issues-Paper.pdf>
- <https://www.cso.ie/en/statistics/unsustainabledevelopmentgoals/>
- <https://www.placemanagement.org/special-interest-groups/the-bid-foundation/>
- [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(21\)00201-4/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(21)00201-4/fulltext)
- https://consultations.ons.gov.uk/external-affairs/consultation-on-the-health-index-beta-release/supporting_documents/Health%20Index%20Consultation%20002.pdf
- <https://www.heritagecouncil.ie/content/files/Sligo-Collaborative-Town-Centre-Health-Report-2020.pdf>

Useful links and resources in relation to Town Centres in Scotland:

- <https://www.historicenvironment.scot/>
- https://www.landcommission.gov.scot/downloads/5dd6a16d88752_CS0-Proposal-final.pdf
- <https://www.scotlandstowns.org/>
- <https://www.historicenvironment.scot/archives-and-research/publications/publication/?publicationId=fa088e13-8781-4fd6-9ad2-a7af00f14e30>
- <https://www.historicenvironment.scot/grants-and-funding/our-grants/conservation-area-regeneration-scheme-cars/>
- <https://www.historicenvironment.scot/archives-and-research/publications/publication/?publicationId=9d58ac8e-f1ec-4141-a3ca-ac54010fd4d2>

4. List of Attendees

Name	Organisation
Tara Buckley	RGDATA
Chris Chapman	Workshop Facilitator
Jonathan Claridge	EU Office Dublin
Shane Conneely	Chambers Ireland
Trevor Connolly	Drogheda BID
Dr Aoife Corcoran	National Housing Agency (NHA)
Dr Philip Crowe	UCD Centre for Irish Towns
Maire Cullinan	Monaghan County Council
Mark Dearey	Dundalk BID
Bernadette Donohoe	IT Sligo
Fiona Donovan	HSE Healthy Cities and Counties
Martha Farrell	IT Tralee/Tralee Chamber Alliance
Finbarr Filan	Sligo BID
Jeanette Fitzsimons	University College Cork
Sile Ginnane	Better Ennis
Deirdre Greaney	IT Sligo
Richard Guiney	Dublin Town (BID)
Alison Harvey	Heritage Council - CTCHC Programme
Nina Horan	Designer
David Jordan	Munster Technology University
Margaret Keane	National Monuments Service
Tracy Keogh	GROW Remote
Teresa Lennon	IREO, Brussels
Sammy Leslie	Heritage Council Board Member
Bridget Loughlin	Kildare County Council
Nicki Matthews	Dept of Housing - Heritage Unit
Dr Suzanne Meade	Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII)
Ruth Minogue	Ruth Minogue Associates

Name	Organisation
David Minton	NWRA
Samantha Morris	TU Dublin
David Murphy	Clúid Housing
Orla Murphy	UCD Centre for Irish Towns
Majella McAllister	Museum of Childhood Project
Martin McElligott	Dundalk BID
Gail McGibbon	Sligo BID
Jamie McNamara	SPAB Scotland + SPAB Ireland
Nicci Nolan	EMRA
Martin O'Byrne	Digital HQ dIlg
Eileen O'Donoghue	Kerry County Council
Tadhg O'Mahony	EPA Ireland, SEA Unit
Sinead O'Reilly	Arts Council
Orla O'Malley	RISE Foundation
Bryan Riney	Southern Regional Assembly (SRA)
Annemarie Ryan	Tipperary Town CTCHC Project
Lorcan Scott	Heritage Council - Biodiversity
Siobhán Sexton	Mayo County Council
Aoife Sheridan	Fingal County Council
Sarah Sherlock	Society of Chartered Surveyors Ireland
Dr Lorcan Sirr	TU Dublin
Dr Mary Smith	CSO
Greg Straton	Department of Health
Tara Taheny	Department of Rural and Community Development
Giulia Vallone	Architect, Cork County Council
Nathalie Weadick	Irish Architectural Foundation/IAF
Tony Williams	IFLA/ILI/TII

5. Further information on the CTCHC Programme

If you require further information on the CTCHC Programme included in the Programme for Government, please get in touch –

aharvey@heritagecouncil.ie

Please note there will be a second workshop in April 2021.



An Chomhairle Oidhreachta
The Heritage Council



An Roinn Tithíochta,
Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreachta
Department of Housing,
Local Government and Heritage



Tionscadal Éireann
Project Ireland
2040



An Roinn Sláinte
Department of Health



Tionól Reigiúnach Oirthir agus Lár-Tíre
Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly

RGDATA



+++ many more...