Revitalising Ireland’s Towns
Pilot Town Centre Health Check (TCHC)
16th March 2017

Developing a Design-Led Approach to Adaptive National Policies

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Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs
The Urban Age project – the Endless City

• Population of the State 1996 – 2006

• 3.6m to 4.3m, 17% increase

• Unevenly throughout the Gateways, Cities and Counties

• Largest growth in Fingal County, Galway City, South Dublin with Cork City reduction
"We're waiting for the city to come to us..."
Urban Design and Environmental Health Impacts

Figure 1: The determinants of health and well-being in our neighbourhoods.

Health Impacts of the Built Environment: a review

Earth Systems Centre
- Earth, its Atmosphere & Climate
- Meteorology
- Geosystems
- Geohazards
- Water Resources

Energy Systems Centre
- Electrical Power Systems
- Energy Efficient Buildings & Transport
- Solar, Carbon Capture
- Bioenergy
- Geotechnology

Bio-Systems Centre
- Bioresource
- Biocomplexity
- Global Change Biology
- Food

Urban Systems Centre
- Transport, Infrastructure & Land Use
- Built Environment
- Environmental Economics
- GIS
Direct Actions - **Hard**

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In Direct Actions - **Soft**
Direct Actions - **Hard**

- 45 Actions
- Public and Private
- Inter-Departmental
- Multi-partner (Professional/Cultural Institutes/Agencies)

In Direct Actions - **Soft**
Direct Actions - **Hard**

- 45 Actions
- Public and Private
- Inter-Departmental
- Multi-partner (Professional/Cultural Institutes/Agencies)

In Direct Actions - **Soft**

- Multi Sectoral
- Trans Disciplinary
- Tangible / in-tangible Actions
- Collaborative
Direct Actions - Hard

Research
Acts 1 – 5 (5)

In Direct Actions - Soft
Direct Actions - **Hard**

- Research
  Acts 1 – 5 (5)

- Quality
  Acts 6 - 20 (15)

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In Direct Actions - **Soft**
Direct Actions - **Hard**

- **Research**
  - Acts 1 – 5 (5)

- **Quality**
  - Acts 6 -20 (15)

- **Urban Design**
  - Acts 21 – 27 (7)

In Direct Actions - **Soft**
Direct Actions - **Hard**

- **Research**
  Acts 1 – 5 (5)

- **Quality**
  Acts 6 – 20 (15)

- **Urban Design**
  Acts 21 – 27 (7)

- **Awareness**
  Acts 28 – 45 (23)

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**In Direct Actions - Soft**
Direct Actions - **Hard**

Research
Acts 1 – 5 (5)

In Direct Actions - **Soft**
Direct Actions - **Hard**

1, 2, 3, 4,

Research Acts 1 – 5 (5)

5

In Direct Actions - **Soft**
### Direct Actions - **Hard**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1, 2, 3, 4, 5</th>
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### Direct Actions - **Soft**

In Direct Actions - **Soft**
Direct Actions - **Hard**

1, 2, 3, 4, 5

- UCD Built Environment Research paper Action 1(ii) Colloquium & Recommendations 2011
- RIAI Colloquium with Schools of Architecture – Report
- ICOMOS International conference (Built Heritage Research)

In Direct Actions - **Soft**

- Irish Architectural Foundation: A space for learning
  BT young scientist category
Direct Actions - **Hard**

- Quality in Urban Design & Architecture
- Energy Efficiency in Traditional Buildings
- Design Quality Indicators – *Quality Report*

**Quality Acts 6-20 (15)**

- 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18

**State sponsored Conferences - Quality**

- Heritage Council – ECORYS report
- Landscape Character Assessment (NLS)

**Soft**

- 11, 13, 19, 20
Direct Actions - **Hard**

**Local Area Plans BPM – DAHG/DECLG**

*Action 21*

High/large scale buildings in Urban Areas

Report: *Action 27(ii)*

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**Urban Design**

Acts 21 – 27 (7)

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In Direct Actions - **Soft**
Direct Actions - **Hard**

**Local Area Plans BPM – DAHG/DECLG**
*Action 21*

High/large scale buildings in Urban Areas
*Report: Action 27(ii)*

**Retail Planning guidance – DAHG/DECLG**
*Action 21*

“Re-use” best practice manual – DAHG *Action 23*
Direct Actions - Hard

Local Area Plans BPM – DAHG/DECLG
*Action 21*

High/large scale buildings in Urban Areas
Report: *Action 27(ii)*

Retail Planning guidance – DAHG/DECLG
*Action 21*

“Re-use” best practice manual – DAHG *Action 23*

Laois Urban Design/Heritage LAP Pilot

Kilkenny City Co Design review Pilot

University Limerick Urban Governance Pilot programme

Dublin Civic trust – NIAH research/Conference Publications – Re-drawing Dublin

Urban Design Acts 21 – 27 (7)

In Direct Actions - Soft
Direct Actions - **Hard**

- Engaging with Architecture Scheme – *DAHG/Arts Council*
- RIAI Awards/ 3twenty10 competition/Publications
- Internationalisation/Cultural branding on Architecture – EI and RIAI
- Competitions

In Direct Actions - **Soft**

- 31, 32, 33, 36, 38, 43, 44, 45
- Awareness Acts 28 – 45 (23)
- 28, 29, 30, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 44, 45
Direct Actions - **Hard**

**Engaging with Architecture Scheme** – DAHG/Arts Council

**RIAI Awards/ 3twenty10 competition/Publications**

Internationalisation/Cultural branding on Architecture – EI and RIAI

**Competitions**
Direct Actions - **Hard**

- Engaging with Architecture Scheme – *DAHG/Arts Council*
- RIAI Awards/ 3twenty10 competition/Publications
- Internationalisation/Cultural branding on Architecture – EI and RIAI

**Competitions**

- Open House (IAF)/ Space for learning/ Core functions
- IAF/Architectural Tours/Debate
- World Design Capital bid 2014 - *DCC*
- Exhibition and venue support – *RIAI/IAA/Darc space/Academic Institutions*
- Irish Architectural Archive

**In Direct Actions - Soft**

- Acts 28 – 45 (23)
- Awareness

**Links**

- 31, 32, 33, 36, 38, 43
- 44, 45
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### Direct Actions - **Hard**

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### In Direct Actions - **Soft**
Direct Actions - **Hard**

- **Research**
  Acts 1 – 5 (5)

- **Quality**
  Acts 6 -20 (15)

- **Urban Design**
  Acts 21 – 27 (7)

- **Awareness**
  Acts 28 – 45 (23)

In Direct Actions - **Soft**
Direct Actions - **Hard**

- Research
  Acts 1 – 5 (5)

- Quality
  Acts 6 - 20 (15)

- Urban Design
  Acts 21 – 27 (7)

- Awareness
  Acts 28 – 45 (23)

In Direct Actions - **Soft**
Direct Actions - **Hard**

- **Research**
  - Acts 1 – 5 (5)

- **Quality**
  - Acts 6 – 20 (15)

- **Urban Design**
  - Acts 21 – 27 (7)

- **Awareness**
  - Acts 28 – 45 (23)

In Direct Actions - **Soft**
Direct Actions - Hard

Research
Acts 1 – 5 (5/2)

Quality
Acts 6 -20 (15/7)

Urban Design
Acts 21 – 27 (7/3)

Awareness
Acts 28 – 45 (23/7)

In Direct Actions - Soft
Direct Actions - **Hard**

- **Research**
  - Acts 1 – 5 (5/2)

- **Quality**
  - Acts 6 - 20 (15/7)

- **Urban Design**
  - Acts 21 – 27 (7/3)

- **Awareness**
  - Acts 28 – 45 (23/7)

In Direct Actions - **Soft**
GPA Related Initiatives 2010-2014

- Reviewing the legislation for part (iv) Planning & Development Acts 2000-2011, as amended;
- New “Re-use” Best Practice Manual - Historic Places and Structures;
- DAHG/DECLG Retail planning Best practice Manual;
- Engagement with DECLG on LEADER funding – Heritage Initiatives;
- DAHG Engagement on Tourism related objectives/Places to visit etc;
- University of limerick pilot urban governance programme;
- RIAI / Kilkenny CAS peer review Pilot;
- Laois CoCo Pilot LAP on Urban Design/Heritage Issues;
Macro Priorities recently launched DAHRRGA
Heritage & Architectural Policy objectives in 2017 include:

- Develop and conclude fiscal strategies: Incentives for Built Heritage with Department of Finance/DPER (Capital Stimulus, continued tax incentives and heritage led regeneration or reuse) incl. ERDF Funding/Horizon 2020;

- Monitor and profile all expenditure relating to the Built Heritage Capital/Current Programme of the Department to invest in heritage renewal (Built Heritage Jobs Leverage Scheme, Historic Towns Initiative, Living City Initiative and Home improvement scheme 2013);


- Use and co-ordinate funding available (LEADER (RDP)/FI/DPER) to invest in heritage conservation and tourism renewal;

- Continued engagement on Referrals/Strategic Infrastructure Projects;
GPA Related Initiatives 2012-2015
avenue of large rooflights provide an uninterrupted view of the sky and flood the space with natural light giving the occupant a perception that he/she is outside.

It conserves the urban fabric and the character of the street, the volumetric integrity of the existing house was to be retained.

The new extension is "stepped out" to its rear of the long, narrow form of the existing plan.

The architect’s drawing showing the "layering" of the existing and new elements working together to make a new architecture.
Context

CORK HISTORIC CENTRE ACTION PLAN

PROJECT TEAM:
CORK CORPORATION AND URBAN INITIATIVES

CLIENT:
CORK CITY COUNCIL

DATE:
1984

CONTEXT
The historic centre of Cork city contains one of the richest concentrations of built heritage in Ireland. Effectively an island development in this area, the history of the medieval city can still be read in its urban plan, built form and in its architectural character. It has retained many of its historic townhouses, some fine municipal architecture and many of the warehouses which supported the city’s economy in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Also, with few exceptions, it has retained its medium-rise skyline and its fine-grain urban structure.

CHALLENGE
In the early 1980s, the historic centre encapsulated many of the problems facing cities everywhere — both in Ireland and abroad: increased tendencies for retailing, commercial and other development to rob cities of their core, leaving dereliction and blight behind. Similarly, with people moving to housing in the suburbs, the indigenous communities in the city were in decline, in some cases leaving only the poor and disadvantaged behind. These conditions set the city council the challenge of defining a new vision for the historic centre, and the task of reviving its social and economic vitality, reversing the decline which had left much of its historic fabric in a precarious state of preservation.
Living City Initiative
A new Pilot project for Urban Regeneration

Information Note

Department of Finance
February 2013

*This initiative will be subject to EU State Aid approval
Historic Towns Initiative (HTI) Pilot 2013-2014

HISTORIC TOWNS INITIATIVE

Framework for the Pilot Phase

Listowel • Westport • Youghal
2013 – 2014
EU-funded Interreg project INHERIT ‘A Guide to Successful Urban Regeneration’ (2007);

Heritage-led regeneration projects across Europe, including Belfast. The INHERIT report listed some of the risks of focusing on cultural tourism development as including:

(i) The creation of a mono-functional space where the character and heritage of a place becomes compromised and every business and space is given over to tourism activities;

(ii) Construction of new and unsympathetic visitor infrastructure;

(iii) Loss of culture and unique identity.
1. Spatial planning:  
- Strategic objectives in Development Plan/LAP’s;  
- Urban Design Framework approach;  
- Quality in Design/application to Public Realm;  

2. Fiscal incentives:  
- Specific incentives to be examined;  
- Create the right environment for growth;  

3. Urban Governance:  
- Implementation and control mechanisms;  
- Quality assurance;  
- Local external bodies/community groups;  

4. Funding:  
- Alternative mechanisms for financial leverage;  

5. Construction employment:  
- Heritage led-regeneration approach to “re-use”;  

6. Post review on Pilot:  
- Evidence based approach or “Learning by doing”.  

Historic Towns Initiative (HTI): Pilot Framework/Toolkit
- Strategic urban design approach to the Built Environment based on architectural and qualitative *urban design* place-making principles;

- Education and awareness of our *existing* Built Environment and the role of architecture;

- Delivery of an *integrated* approach to the Built Environment with quality as core criteria;

- Joint collaborative approach – measurable tangible outcomes in the Built Environment – *Trans disciplinary and Multi-Sectoral*;
- Strategic urban design approach to the Built Environment based on architectural and qualitative *urban design* place-making principles;

**QUALITY OF LIFE AND PLACE-MAKING**

- Education and awareness of our *existing* Built Environment and the role of architecture;

**KNOWLEDGE & CULTURE**

- Delivery of an *integrated* approach to the Built Environment with quality as core criteria;

**WELL MADE**

- Joint collaborative approach – measurable tangible outcomes in the Built Environment – *Trans disciplinary and Multi-Sectoral*;

**INNOVATION & PROCESS**
www.ahrrga.gov.ie

Built Heritage and Architectural Policy

Towards a Sustainable Future: Delivering Quality within the Built Environment