



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

Ár dTodhchaí
Tuaithe
Our Rural
Future



Tionscadal Éireann
Project Ireland
2040



Comhairle Contae
Dhún na nGall
Donegal County Council

TOWN & VILLAGE RENEWAL 2024 - Project Development Measure (PDM)

Donegal County Council are now seeking **Expressions of Interest** from towns and villages who may have a suitable project for consideration under Town & Village Renewal Scheme, Project Development Measure 2024.

The purpose of the PDM is to assist in the preparation of a pipeline of significant, well-developed projects which might be subsequently progressed to construction stage, subject to the availability of further funding.

Each EOI should provide full detail on the project, including general, financial, planning, timelines for completion and additionality to the region. Only proposals that are capable of being delivered within a 12–18-month timeframe should be submitted.

The development of 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 regeneration strategy, 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.

Under this scheme, applicants must demonstrate that:

- Proposed projects have been identified as part of a town plan, health check, Community Futures plan or other community planning process.
- Full involvement by community interests and/or business interests will be an essential feature of successful projects.
- Proposed projects are strategic and will assist in rejuvenating the town or village in which they are sited.

Additionally:

- 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.

Funding may be awarded for costs such as detailed design, planning, procurement, professional fees, assessments, and other development 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 projects will need to be submitted as normal under the competitive funding processes.

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. Funding may be awarded for costs such as detailed design, planning, procurement, professional fees, assessments and other development costs.

Project Development Measures have previously 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.

Following receipt of EOI's, in evaluation Donegal County Council will select up to 3 Expressions of Interest to progress to full application to the Department of Rural and Community Development as part of the Local Authority submission. The selection of PDM projects will be by means of a competitive process. When selecting the successful projects, in line with the Public Spending Code, the Department will give consideration to a number of factors including alignment with Our Rural Future; Town Centre First Plan; the statutory development planning system; additional Department priorities; available funding; the range, mix, quality and impact of proposed projects; past project delivery performance; previous funding provided and all other relevant considerations.

Final project selection will be made by DRCD.

Funding Conditions

The maximum funding amount available is €50,000 per project with a grant rate of 90% of the total project costs.

Grant drawdown will be based on vouched expenditure. Commitments for future spend will not be accepted by the Department.

Upon submitting a drawdown request the following conditions must have been met: Evidence of all costs incurred in respect of completing the PDM, and a Case Study report on the completed project.

CLOSING DATE FOR RECEIPT OF EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST:

2pm Thursday 14th March 2024

Completed EOIS should be returned by e-mail to TownandVillage@donegalcoco.ie **before 2pm on Thursday 14th March 2024**

Late Expressions of Interest will NOT be considered.

Please contact TownandVillage@donegalcoco.ie if you have any further queries.