



An Roinn Ealaíon, Oidhreachta,
Gnóthai Réigiúnacha, Tuaithe agus Gaeltachta

Department of Arts, Heritage,
Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs



Realising our
Rural Potential
Action Plan for Rural Development

Town and Village Renewal Scheme



Town & Village Renewal Scheme 2017

Frequently Asked Questions

All queries can be addressed to: townandvillage@ahg.gov.ie

Q. With regard to Safety Measures, could Community CCTV be compatible within the measures?

A. CCTV could be incorporated into an overall bigger plan for a Town or Village if the benefits can be demonstrated and linkages given. i.e. Purple Flag etc. In relation to CCTV a scheme has just been announced by the Department of Justice & Equality, please see their website for further details; <http://www.justice.ie/en/JELR/Pages/Community-Based-CCTV>

Q. What conditions are attached to the Match Funding element?

A. There are no specific guidelines here apart from the fact that a maximum of 80% funding is available. Up to 10% of the remaining cost may be provided in the form of "in-kind" contributions (e.g. land lease or voluntary labour) and a minimum cash contribution of 10% will also be required. These Cash or "in-kind" contributions can be from either the community or Local Authority or a combination of both.

Q. Is the Town & Village Renewal Scheme linked to the Town & Village measure under LEADER 2014-2020?

A. No, the Town & Village Renewal Scheme is exchequer funding and Towns and Villages are welcome to apply under both funding streams, however, double-funding cannot occur on any project.

Q. Can funding under the Town & Village Renewal Scheme be used in conjunction with another funding stream?

A. Yes, funding can be used in collaboration with other funding streams for a particular project so long as double-funding does not occur on any element.

Q. What additional information can be provided?

A. In addition to completing the official application form, up to 5 pages of supporting documentation can be provided. For projects seeking increased funding up to €200,000, additional information can be increased if relevant and appropriate to justify the increase.

Q. Will funding be equal to all Counties?

A. No, in 2016 each county received €380,000, this year a competitive process has been introduced. Following receipt of Expressions of Interest from Towns & Villages, Local Authorities must select the best and work up applications for up to 15 of these which should then be submitted to the Department for Assessment. Depending on the quality of these applications, it may well be the case that all or none will be funded.

Q. Is there a specified budget for the €200,000 projects?

A. No, the awarding of increased funding up to €200,000 will be in limited cases and only where a strong economic case has been demonstrated.

Q. Can the "Art Works" funding be completed in a town that was successful in receiving funding in 2016?

A. No, the allocation of €20,000 for Art Works per county will be based on the Local Authority demonstrating linkages between the areas receiving funding in 2017. The location, type, design etc. of such works will be a matter for the Local Authority.

Q. Is only one "Art Works" project allowed per county?

A. It is a matter for each Local Authority if awarded €20,000 for Art Works, how they expend those funds and on how many separate Art Works they choose, so long as the locations link with those locations successful in attracting funding in 2017.

Q. In relation to "Art Works", can additional funding be made to increase the Art Works?

A. Yes, private funding or additional funding can be added for a larger piece.

Q. Who assesses the Expressions of Interest?

A. Following receipt of Expressions of Interest from Towns & Villages, Local Authorities must assess all expressions and select the best and work up applications for up to 15 of these which should then be submitted to the Department for Assessment.

Q. If a project demonstrates its integral part in a larger plan, will this help?

A. Yes, Looking as the bigger picture, identifying where a Town or Village is now and where they want to be is to be encouraged. Demonstrating how a specific project will assist in this vision will have a favourable effect on its assessment.

Q. Can smaller geographical areas of a Town be considered as eligible as many have their own identities?

A. Smaller geographical areas would not be considered eligible as an application. Figures from the 2011 or 2016 Census can be used. If a Town or Village is under the 5,000 or 10,000 in either Census they are eligible to apply. Additional data relating to the 2016 results will be available on the CSO website from Thursday June 11th, the document titled "profile 2". www.cso.ie.

Information on the 2011 Census can also be obtained from the same website or by using the following hyperlinks;

[CD114: Population and Percentage Change 2006 and 2011 by Sex, Towns by Electoral Division, CensusYear and Statistic](#)

[CD116: Population Density and Area Size by Towns by Size, CensusYear and Statistic](#)

[CD121: Population by Sex, Alphabetical List of Towns, CensusYear and Statistic](#)

Please also see link below to an interactive tool known as "SAPMAP" which will allow you to look at specific areas by town-land, electoral division, settlements etc.

[INTERACTIVE MAPPING TOOL\(SAPMAP\)](#)

[A Guide to using the SAPMAP web](#)

Small Area Population Statistics (SAPS) - all variables will be released on the 20 July 2017 for 2016 Census.

Q. How does one ascertain if a Town or Village is eligible?

A. Data from the CSO as per above, should be used in order to determine the population of a Town or Village before applications are submitted.

Q. Are larger towns eligible to apply?

A. Towns with a population of greater than 10, 000 are not eligible to apply. If the population of the town was less than 10,000 in either the 2011 or 2016 census, that town is eligible to apply.

Q. Can Local Authorities apply direct labour under the grant funding?

A. The Department will allow direct labour costs to be met under the Local Authority 20% match funding only. Expenditure under to 80% grant funding must be on foot of Capital expenditure through vouched invoices for materials or from contractors.

Q. Do towns under 1,000 have to demonstrate the same economic cases?

A. For public realm type projects in smaller towns of under 1,000 a strong economic case will not need to be made, however for

any projects outside of public realm or for towns greater than 1,000, the stronger the economic case, the better with regards to the Departmental assessment.

Q. Should Local Authorities monitor the number of applications under Category 1 and 2?

A. Yes, attention should be taken with the ratio of applications between category 1 and 2 as 60% of the overall budget will be allocated to towns and villages under category 1.

Q. What are the timeframes involved?

A. Scheme launched April 13th. Local Authorities to advertise the scheme locally by end April early May. Closing date for receipt of up to 15 applications in to townandvillage@ahg.gov.ie is June 30th, 2017. It is anticipated that lists of successful projects will be available by end of July. Funding will issues in 2 tranches, the first 50% when a satisfactory level of the project has been completed. The remaining 50% of the funding will issue on total completion of the project. It is expected that all projects will be totally complete and full drawdown made by July 2018.

Q. Does a Local Authority have to submit 15 applications?

A. No, it is a matter for each Local Authority to decide, based on the expressions of interest received to decide how many of these are viable and represent a good chance of attracting funding. Up to 15 can be submitted for assessment.

Q. Is the document "A Framework for Town Centre Renewal" part of the scheme?

A. No, this is a policy document under the Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation which was launched in Sligo on April 25th by Minister Mary Mitchell O'Connor. The document has a number of recommendations around the renewal of Town Centres from an economic perspective. The document is available from the Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation or it can be downloaded from their website here; <https://www.djei.ie/en/Publications/A-Framework-for-Town-Centre-Renewal.html>

Q. Is funding available for Health Checks?

A. Yes, as in 2016 funding will be made available to towns or villages who have not carried out a health check.

Q. Can funding be guaranteed for additional phases of projects next year and beyond?

A. No, each year separate assessments will be carried out based on applications received.

Q. How to determine population of Towns and Villages?

A. data provided by the Central Statistics Office should be used in determining if a Town or Village are eligible under category 1 or 2, the CSO website or the attached link will assist with this process.
<http://www.cso.ie/en/census/census2011reports/census2011populationclassifiedbyareaformerlyvolumeone/>

Q. Should the Local Authority call a meeting to finalise up to 15 projects for submission?

A. This is a matter for each Local Authority to agree on individually as to how final applications will be selected for assessment.