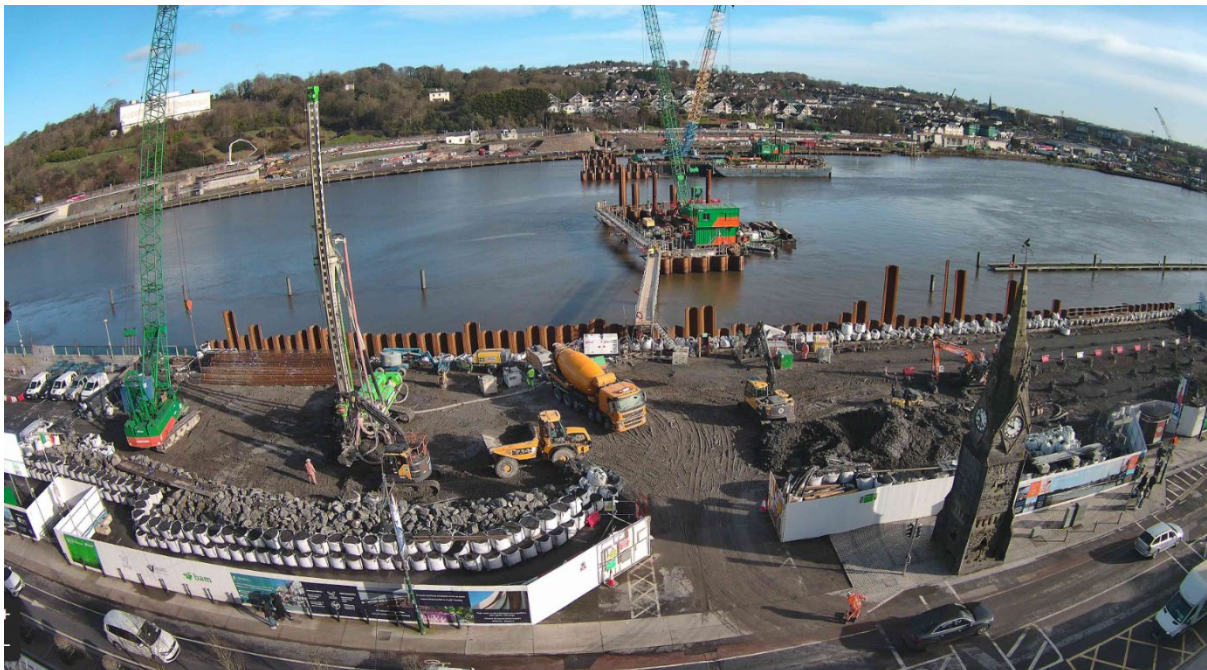


**DO: GACH BALL DE CHEANTAR CATHRACH PHORT LÁIRGE  
TO: EACH MEMBER OF THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT OF WATERFORD  
Economic Development Report March 2024**

**1. North Quays**

It is a year since ground was broken on the North Quays Public Infrastructure Project by Taoiseach Leo Varadkar TD, since then works have advanced significantly and are progressing well. The substructure works for the Sustainable Transport Bridge is continuing, with works advancing on all four of the bridge piers while the steel deck superstructure is being fabricated off-site in Belgium. The pile support slab for the South Plaza is also 50% complete.



**South Plaza**

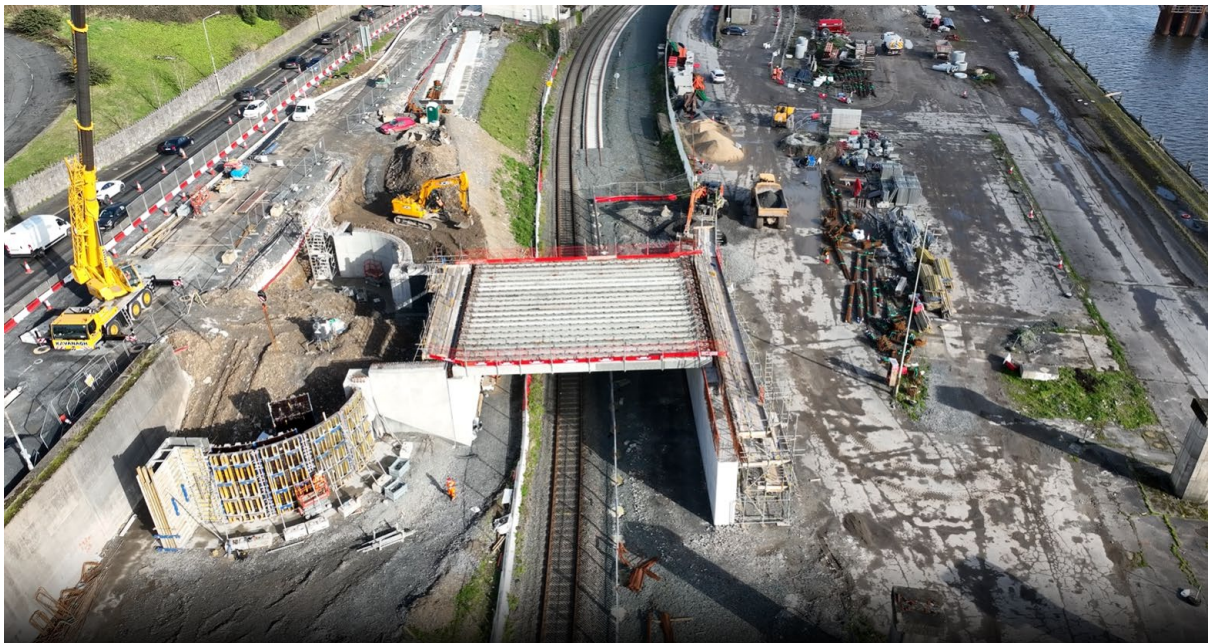
All piling for the Transport Hub building concourse, platforms and the southern support walls for the station concourse and columns are now substantially complete. Work is also progressing on the support walls to the northern side of the railway. Irish Rail is continuing to install a new rail track to the south of the existing rail track.





#### **Transport hub viewed from level crossing**

The road and access infrastructure is progressing well, with works continuing on the various bridge structures. Traffic management measures continue to be in place along Dock Road to allow for the installation of sewer and surface water network services. Phase 5 traffic management measures recently commenced along the median at Dock Road / Fountain Street.



**Bridge S19 on Dock road with wing walls under construction (images above and below)**





Works are complete to the pump station gravity surface water and foul pipeline network. Testing and commissioning has commenced for the new Pump Station and substantial completion is anticipated in mid May 2024.



#### **Ferrybank Pump station and greenway underpass beside Abbey Road**

Detailed design for the Flood Defence West Scheme to the west of Plunkett Station, is progressing and currently being costed.

## **City Centre Regeneration URDF Projects**

### **Munster Express**

**3 & 4 Georges Street** (Project C) – DHB consultant architects are progressing preliminary designs for the refurbishment and repurposing of 3 & 4 Georges Street for commercial use. A number of hazardous materials surveys have been concluded and a tender for Asbestos Removal has been issued; these critical works will be completed by April.

**The Art House & 7 & 8 Thomas Street** (Project J & I) – The Consultant Tender will be live this week for a single-design team for both Art House 1 and 2. A Tender for Demolition and Structural survey will precede site clearance works at 7-8 Thomas Street. The creation of a pocket park to the rear of the site will progress under the Community Recognition Fund.

**Parade Quay** (Project P, Q & R) - The development is for a proposed housing, public realm and commercial development at 124 -130 Parade Quay and also 123A & 123B Parade Quay. The Part 8 planning application was on display and three submissions were received and are currently being reviewed.

**City Hall & Bishops Palace** A tender will be issued shortly seeking a contractor to carry out repairs to the roof and external walls to both structures.

### **Derrick Crane**

Malone O'Regan Consulting Engineers have been appointed and have commenced works on the assessment report which will include recommendations for future repair/remedial works.

## **Water Activity Centres – Tramore and Ardmore – Metro and Dungarvan Lismore PF**

Faite Ireland awarded grant assistance of €1.7m for the design, construction and fit out of **two** Water Activity Centres one to be located in Tramore.

### **Progress is as follows:**

#### Tramore:

- New location for the centre has been selected and agreed with Irish Water/Uisce Eireann, works on the planning/part 8 documentation is ongoing and it is hoped to commence the Part 8 process in Q2 2024.

## **2. Tourism**

### **Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS)**

- Currently implementing 12 projects around the county, funded under the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) between 2020 and 2023.

### **Expansion of Walks Scheme**

The Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD, announced the largest ever expansion of Ireland's National Walks Scheme on 28th February with 62 new trails announced across 17 counties. 12 of these walking trails are located in Co. Waterford and include:

- The Boolas Loop Walk, Rathgormack
- Mount Melleray Pilgrim Paths (5 trails)
- Nire Valley Walks (4 trails)
- **Dunmore East Coastal Walk**
- Ardmore Cliff Walk

The Walks scheme is administered locally by Waterford Leader Partnership's Rural Recreation Officer.

The Minister has also opened a new EOI process from LDC's for new trails and substantial extensions to existing trails. The closing date for EOIs is **11th October 2024**.

### **Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) 2022**

- Enhancement of Open water swim amenities in Dunmore East to include handrail at slipway, ladder to access water and knee-high foot wash tap - Measure 1. Contractor has been appointed and project is ongoing. Anticipated completion date in Q2 2024.

### **Waterford Trails**

- Continuing to engage with Sport Ireland Outdoors and local trail development groups around Waterford regarding ongoing monitoring, maintenance, development and promotion of Waterford's existing recreational trail network. [www.visitwaterfordtrails.com](http://www.visitwaterfordtrails.com)

### **Visit Waterford Update**

- **Membership increased to 53:** Following consistent efforts from Visit Waterford membership is growing steadily and there are now 53 members.
- **Irish Examiner Feature:** Maeve Lee's article on Waterford, who Visit Waterford hosted in 2023, appeared in the Irish Examiner on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> February. She was a big fan of the Waterford Greenway and highlighted many points of interest along the route as well as writing about the culinary delights she experienced in Dungarvan and Waterford City. The historic City landmarks and a visit to Waterford Crystal were also included in the feature. <https://www.irishexaminer.com/lifestyle/travel/arid-41323507.html>