



**DO: GACH BALL DE CHEANTAR CATHRACH PHORT LÁIRGE**  
**TO: EACH MEMBER OF THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT OF WATERFORD**  
**Economic Development Report January 2025**

**1. City Centre Regeneration URDF Projects**

**Munster Express** (Project F & H) – The Design Team are progressing the detailed design for the Smart SE technological hub in the former Munster Express property. Investigative opening-up works have commenced, these will provide detailed information of the building and its construction. A Pre-Demolition Audit has been completed which aims to reduce construction waste arising from the removals and will guide the initial enabling works; this is part of WCCC’s participation in the Circular Economy Programme, a national pilot scheme.

**3 & 4 Georges Street** (Project B & C) – The Part 8 public consultation period has closed for the change of use of 3 & 4 Georges Street from residential to office use, including the refurbishment and conservation of the historic buildings. The observations and submissions received are currently being reviewed.

**The Art House / 7 & 8 Thomas Street** (Project I & J) – A Consultant team, led by Drake Hourigan Architects are progressing the project design. A Part 8 application is expected to commence in Q2 2025 and will involve community engagement to inform proposals.

Enabling Works for the Pocket Park are completed; this marks phase 1 of creating amenity space for the area. Planting and Boundary painting will be undertaken when conditions permit to further enhance the space.

**Parade Quay** (URDF Projects P & Q) – The proposed development is for housing, public realm and commercial use at 124-130 Parade Quay. Opening-up and investigative works are ongoing within the various properties for review with the National Monuments Service. Tender documents are currently being prepared and following a tender process it is intended to commence site works in Q2 2025.

Refurbishment work to 123A Parade Quay (aka; Central Hall; URDF Project R) is ongoing and the property will be included in the adjacent Museum of Time building, and due to open May 2025.

**18 Lady Lane** Plans are currently being developed in coordination with the project and funding partners for 18 Lady Lane, to create a new children’s experience, Tír na nÓg, Waterford.

**City Hall & Bishops Palace** – Scaffolding is currently being erected on City Hall, The Mall, and will progress to Bishops Palace. Work to the roofs and facades of both buildings will be ongoing and it is intended to complete all works in Q2 2025.

**Derrick Crane** – Drone (3D) and topographic surveys of the crane are completed, inspection and opening up works being carried out by conservation specialist next week. Draft structural assessment report and proposals for repair / refurbishment works is anticipated by end January/early February 2025.

**2. Metal Man**

A conditional assessment report has been finalised and following review by WCCC Conservation Officer a contractor will be engaged to schedule the works.

**3. Tramore Water Activity Centre**

The design team intend to commence a tender process for the works in January 2025.

#### 4. Trails and Outdoor Recreation

##### **2024/2025 OUTDOOR RECREATION INFRASTRUCTURE SCHEME (ORIS)**

Following an ORIS EOI process in late 2024, WCCC will submit 6 x Measure 1 applications by the deadline: 14<sup>th</sup> February. 2 x Project Development Measure applications will be prepared for the same deadline. The deadline for Measures 2 and 3 projects is 28<sup>th</sup> March 2025.

##### **County Outdoor Recreation Plan**

Work has commenced on the preparation of the County Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP) for Waterford. It is an objective of 'Embracing Ireland's Outdoors – The National Outdoor Recreation Strategy' that each county prepares a CORP and forms a stakeholder grouping the County Outdoor Recreation Committee.

In this regard progress to date has been:

- Stakeholder and public consultation will form a key part of the preparation of the plan in the coming weeks. The project team has invited all Councillors to a Plenary workshop regarding the preparation of the plan to be held via Teams on 21<sup>st</sup> January.
- In person public consultation sessions are currently planned to take place as follows:
  - 7:30 p.m. Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2025 – SETU Arena, Waterford City, X91 XD96.
  - 7:30 p.m. Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2025 – The Park Hotel, Dungarvan, X35 CC97.
  - Online public consultation will also take place around this time.
- It is anticipated that the CORP will be finalised by late Q1/early Q2 2025.

##### **Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) 2023:**

WCCC submitted a number of successful ORIS applications under the 2023 scheme with works planned to take place throughout 2025:

##### **Measure 1:**

- Biodiversity hot spot and pocket recreation area on the Waterford Greenway, Carriganore - €30,000.
- Passage East Walking Trail – steps leading towards church – path repairs, drainage, install new steps - €30,000.

##### **Measure 2:**

- Dunmore East Coastal Trail Project – Upgrade of steps at Portally Cove. Upgrade of section of trail between Dunmore East and Portally - €108,000.

##### **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)

#### 5. Waterford City Centre Management Group

The next meeting of the Waterford City Centre Management Group is scheduled for Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2025.

#### 6. Tourism: Visit Waterford 2024 highlights

- Visit Waterford had a global media reach of over 80 million in 2024.
- Visit Waterford increased its' membership by 44% in 2024, building on a 50% increase in 2023.