



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

1. City Centre Regeneration URDF Projects

Munster Express (Project F & H) – Investigative opening-up works are now complete and being reviewed by the Design Team while preparing the detailed design. Technical specifications and equipment schedules are under development in conjunction with end-user requirements and engineers for the project. Works are due to be tendered in Q2 with demolition works being included under the main contract.

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, particularly in relation to the design 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 at the end of Q1 2025 and will involve community engagement to inform proposals.

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 for review and approval by 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 Concept designs are 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. Tenders for enabling works are also being prepared.

City Hall & Bishops Palace – Work to the roofs and facades of both buildings has commenced and intend to complete all works in Q2 2025.

Derrick Crane – Survey and opening up works are now complete to inform the structural assessment report and proposals for repair / re

2. Metal Man

A conditional assessment report has been finalised and following review by WCCC Conservation Officer a contractor will be engaged to schedule repair/conservation works. It is hoped to commence works in early Q2 2025.

3. Tramore Water Activity Centre

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

4. Waterford City of Lights Project

The Waterford City of Lights Project, funded by Fáilte Ireland under the Urban Animation Scheme, is now fully operational. City of Lights has been shortlisted in the Best Tourism Initiative Category in the LAMA All Ireland Community & Council Awards 2025.

Economic Development are now working to develop a programme of projections, particularly focused on the Q1 and Q4 of each year. Corporate Affairs will continue to manage the coloured lighting on Council buildings to support and recognise different events.

The projectors and building lighting will celebrate St Patrick’s Day for the period from March 1st to March 18th.



WCQ have a temporary installation on the Presbytery Building, Georges Street, designed by local artist Daniel O’Neill.



5. Trails and Outdoor Recreation

2024/2025 OUTDOOR RECREATION INFRASTRUCTURE SCHEME (ORIS):

Following an ORIS EOI process in late 2024, WCCC submitted 6 x **Measure 1** applications by the deadline: 14th February. Projects outlined below are in the Metro MD and can apply for up to €40,000 in ORIS funding.

Project	Description	Cost estimate
Crooke – Beach Access	Improvement of an existing walking route and provision of safe access onto the beach to complete a walking loop between Passage East and Crooke, Co. Waterford.	€50,500

Project	Description	Cost estimate
Dunmore East Woods - New Trail Section at Lacey's Wood	Upgrade the existing informal trail through Lacey's Wood section of woodland to the north of Dunmore East – Upgraded trail surface similar to trails within main woodland, improved drainage, access improvements, new boardwalk sections and native planting.	€43,900
Promotion of Outdoor Recreation in Waterford	Promotion of the range of unique landscapes, experiences and attractions that are available in Waterford to a national and international audience. The media used to promote this will include, video, photography, print and audio.	€45,000

2 x **Project Development Measure** applications were submitted for the same deadline 14th February. Projects outlined below are in the Metro MD and can apply for up to €50,000 in ORIS funding

Project	Description	Cost estimate
Waterford Estuary	Waterford City and County Council, Kilkenny County Council, Wexford County Council and Fáilte Ireland are working jointly to develop a 10-year Strategy to guide the future sustainable development and management of the Waterford Estuary as a location for outdoor recreation and tourism.	€65,000

The deadline for Measures 2 and 3 ORIS projects is 28th March 2025 – project details to follow in March progress report.

City and County Outdoor Recreation Plan

Work is well underway on the preparation of the City and 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:

- A very engaging and informative workshop was held with councillors via Teams on 21st January. Feedback and issue raised will be considered as part of the preparation of the plan.
- Very well attended and successful public consultation events took place as follows:
 - Wednesday 29th January - SETU Arena approx. 105 in attendance.
 - Thursday 30th January - The Park Hotel, Dungarvan, approx. 70 in attendance.
 - An online survey which closed on Wednesday 12th February.
- It is anticipated that the CORP will be finalised by late Q1/early Q2 2025.

Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) Funding

- 12 projects currently being implemented or shortly to commence, funded under the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS)2022 and 2023.

Waterford Trails

- Continuing to engage with Sport Ireland Outdoors, local trail development groups and other key stakeholders with regard to ongoing monitoring, maintenance, development and promotion of Waterford's existing recreational trail network. www.visitwaterfordtrails.com

6. Waterford City Centre Management Group

The Waterford City Centre Management Group (CCMG) met on February 6th to commence implementing their Waterford City Centre Management Plan 2025-2027. The plan was developed by the CCMG following involvement of key economic stakeholders in a Place Standard Survey and workshop.

The main focus of the City Centre Management Group is working with the local authority in ensuring the city centre is an attractive place for existing businesses to operate, attracting new businesses and ensuring the city centre is attractive and accessible as a destination.

The City Centre Management Plan focuses on the economic development of the city centre across four key themes: Getting the basics right, Getting the mix right, Public realm and animation and Connectivity and Access.



Members of the Waterford City Centre Management Group

7. Tourism

Waterford Rural Tourism Network

Work with the Waterford Rural Tourism Network (WRTN) continues this year, together with Fáilte Ireland and Runda Hospitality & Tourism Solutions. The first of three cluster meetings for each of the five areas took place in January. Blackwater Valley, Comeragh, Copper Coast, Gaeltacht na nDéise, and Waterford Estuary all welcomed new members to their meetings. Plans for the year to continue the sustainable development of the network were outlined and feedback / contributions from the rural tourism businesses in attendance was gathered to ensure the programme is as beneficial as possible for the industry. Plans for the first network-wide event at the end of February, and the Learning Journey to Gaeltacht na nDéise in March are well under way.



Picture 1: Waterford Estuary Cluster Meeting 14.01.25



Picture 2: Gaeltacht na nDéise Cluster Meeting 29.01.25

New Tourism Experience Development Programme

Fáilte Ireland and Waterford City & County Council announced a new Tourism Experience Development Programme for rural County Waterford in November 2024. This programme will complement and enhance the Waterford Rural Tourism Network by aiding the development of new Tourism Experiences in rural Waterford. Following information sessions held in November, 17 people continued with the workshops in December 2024 and January 2025. The programme will continue with individual mentoring to further assist businesses to develop their tourism experience.