



Border, Midland & Western
Regional Assembly
Investing in Your Future

PRESS RELEASE

REGIONAL PROGRAMMES TO AWARD €28 MILLION TO GATEWAYS & HUB TOWNS

The Border, Midland & Western (BMW) and the Southern & Eastern (S&E) Regional Assemblies have announced that they have recently approved grants totalling €28 million to fund Urban Regeneration and Sustainable Urban Transport projects in the National Spatial Strategy designated Gateways and Hub Towns under their respective Regional Operational Programmes 2007-13, which are co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).

In the case of the Southern & Eastern Region, €11 million in grants have been awarded to the Gateway cities of Cork, Dublin, Limerick and Waterford to co-finance a variety of projects which include public realm improvements, green transport routes, arts centres and tourist visitor attractions.

In the Border Midland and West Region, the 5 designated Gateways: Dundalk, Galway City, Letterkenny, Midlands (Athlone, Tullamore, Mullingar) and Sligo have been awarded €10.85m, towards strategic transport, urban regeneration and cultural investments; while the Hub towns of Ballina, Castlebar, Cavan, Monaghan and Tuam will benefit from an investment of €6.3m in urban renewal, amenity provision, energy efficiency and cultural infrastructure investment.

These allocations will provide up to 60% of public investment costs in the selected urban projects in the BMW Region and 50% of these costs in the Southern and Eastern Region, with the balance provided by the local authorities. The announcement follows a call for projects which was issued in July and these projects were assessed by a Steering Committee representing the Department of Finance, Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government and the two Regional Assemblies. The funding is drawn from the 7.5% advance of ERDF funding to the 2007-2013 Regional Operational Programmes.

The selected projects which are to be largely completed by the end of 2010, will greatly enhance the potential of the Gateways and Hub Towns, making them more attractive places in which to live, work and invest. The diverse initiatives proposed by the Gateway and Hub local authorities are expected to make a significant contribution to the economic, environmental, social and cultural development of these cities and towns in both regions.

.../ENDS

For further information, please contact:

BMW Region: Gerry Finn, Director BMW Regional Assembly 094 9862970

S&E Region: Stephen Blair, Director, S&E Regional Assembly 051 860700

Editor's Note

The Regional Assemblies were established in 1999 following the designation of two regions for EU Structural Funds purposes. The Assemblies' membership is comprised of nominated elected representatives from the constituent local authorities. The primary function of the Assemblies is to act as managing authorities for the EU co-financed Regional Operational Programmes and to ensure their effective implementation. For the 2007-13 period, €750m of EU co-financed expenditure will be managed and monitored by the Regional Assemblies, delivered primarily through Government Departments and Agencies, Higher Education Institutions and local authorities.