

COMMUNITY AND INVESTMENT

DRIVING PROGRESS IN CORK CITY CENTRE

Showcasing the revitalisation of quarters and communities in Cork city centre, more than €700 million is currently being invested in the city centre, through a number of private and public developments, which include multi-functional sites encompassing retail, office, education, culture and tourism.

Matching this financial investment, traders, retailers, hoteliers, city residents and businesses have been successfully working together to revitalise the city quarters, with the support of the CORE partnership.

This partnership brings together Cork City Council, Cork Chamber, Cork Business Association, An Garda Síochána, Bus Éireann, Cork City Centre Forum as well as representatives from the hospitality sector and businesses across the city.

A recent event was recently held in Cork by the CORE Partnership to announce this investment drive, which also saw the launch of a new publication entitled *'Cork City Revitalisation – People, Place, Progress'*. The event served to showcase the collaborative work ongoing in the city centre by communities, traders, developers, businesses, the local authorities and other stakeholders through the partnership approach.

HUGE VOTE OF CONFIDENCE

Speaking at the event to launch the new publication, Cork City Council's Chief Executive Ann Doherty described the recent publication of Project 2040 as "a huge vote of confidence" in the future and potential of Cork City, to act as a counterbalance to Dublin.

"Cork's city centre is the beating heart of Cork and our City Centre Strategy aims to deliver for the wider Cork region through



Joining forces to showcase *'Cork City Centre Revitalisation'* were (l-r): Peter O'Meara of Savills, Eoin Kennedy, Zone Digital, Patrick Leader, Aaron Mansworth, Chair of the Irish Hotels Federation (Cork Region), Victorian Quarter's representative Clara O'Neill, Event MC Deirdre Shaughnessy, Justine Looney, who represented Douglas Street Business Association (South Parish Quarter), Cork Business Association's Lawrence Owens, Lorcan Griffin and Paul McGuirk, Cork City Council.

'People, Place, Progress' Showcases A City Rising

- Current investment of €700 million in Cork City Centre;
- 30 new sites in development or in the pipeline this year;
- Revitalisation of City Quarter areas driven by communities and supported by stakeholders;
- €7 million investment in Phase 1 of the Marina Park development – five times the size of Fitzgerald's Park;
- 10% increase in jobs growth over five years in Cork, bringing the total number of jobs in the city centre to 79,000.

the revitalisation of the city centre. Central to this strategy is collaboration.

"I am encouraged by the continued engagement and commitment of all involved in CORE, the city centre partnership, and the interaction and co-operation by businesses and community groups at a quarter and street level is very promising."

There has been a 10% increase in jobs growth over five years in Cork, which now sees the number of jobs in the city centre totaling 79,000. Footfall in the city centre is increasing, and more than 1,000 student bed spaces are under construction with a proposed increase of over 30% increase in hotel rooms.

Other speakers included Peter O'Meara of Savills Cork, Aaron Mansworth, Vice President of the Irish Hotels Federation, planner Clara O'Neill, who represented the Victorian Quarter, and florist Justine McCarthy, who represented the Douglas Street Business Association, part of the South Parish Quarter, among others.