

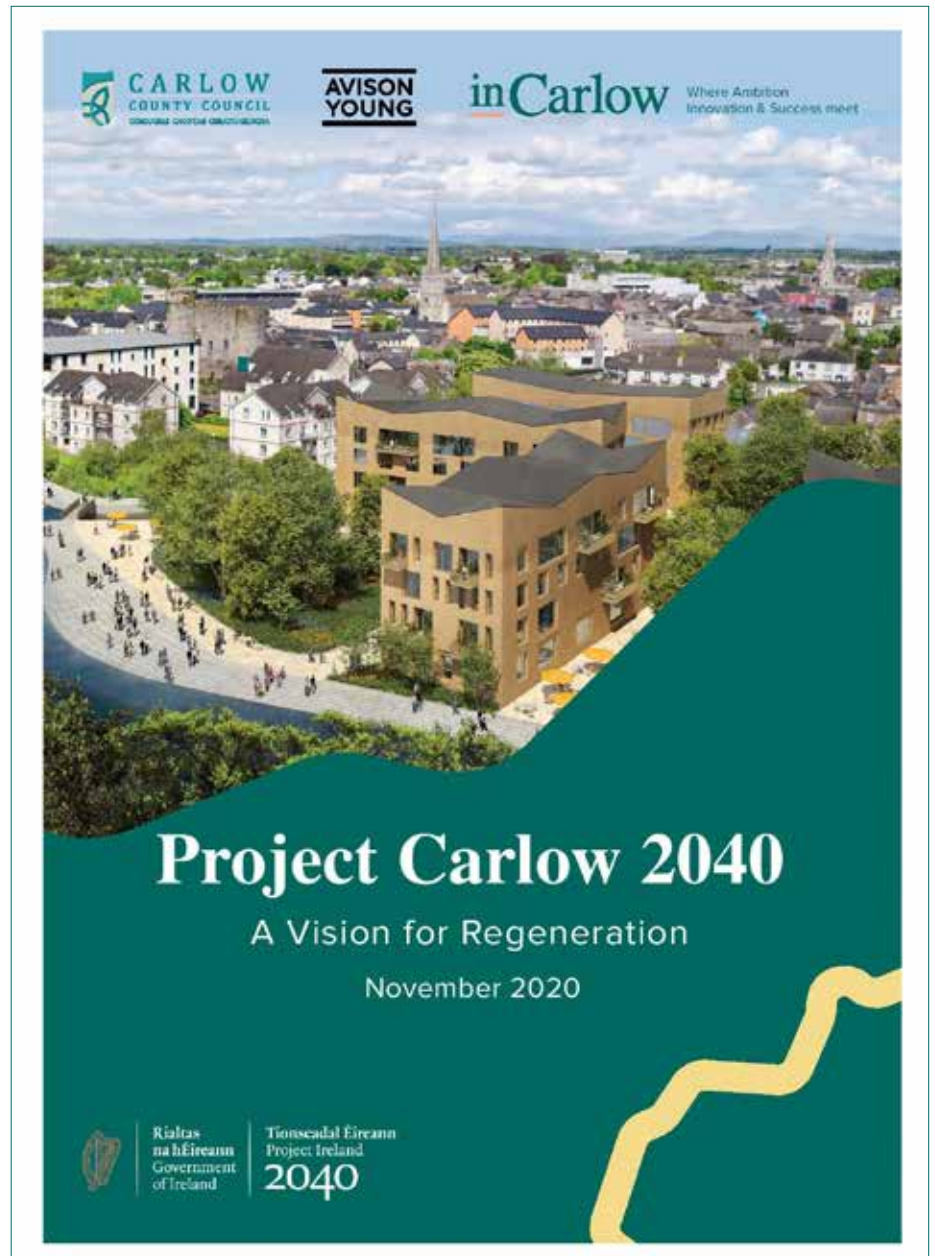
# MAJOR REGENERATION INVESTMENT FOR CARLOW TOWN

A total of €9.79 million has been awarded under the Urban Regeneration Development Fund (URDF) for key projects identified in 'Project Carlow 2040', and combined with match funding by Carlow County Council, this will see an overall regeneration investment of €13 million into the south-east town over the next 20 years.

**S**trategically located in the South-East Region, Carlow Town plays a pivotal role with strong links to the Midlands and the Greater Dublin Area, supported by good access to transport infrastructure. Carlow is a regional centre for education, healthcare, public services, shopping and arts, culture, leisure, and recreation for a wide area extending into Laois, Kildare and Wicklow.

Carlow Town's masterplan 'Project Carlow 2040 – A Vision for Regeneration & Development' will seek to reinforce the critical role of the town centre as the heart of Carlow Town, providing attractive and accessible public spaces with new pedestrian linkages. Project Carlow 2040 has envisaged the development of several intervention areas, which will play a central role in delivering the objectives outlined in the strategy over the next 20 years.

The overall aim of the masterplan is to develop the thriving, vibrant and sustainable town centre as a destination not just for shopping but also for tourists attracted to the unique architectural,



cultural and heritage attributes of Carlow's townscape.

#### TOWN CENTRE EARMARKED

Welcoming the funding Cllr Tom O'Neill, Cathaoirleach of Carlow County Council, said the people of Carlow can now "look forward to a major regeneration of their county town, including the development

of attractive and accessible public spaces with new pedestrian linkages, which will support an improved quality of life for all who work, live, and visit".

The Cathaoirleach paid tribute to fellow elected members, the Mayor and members of Carlow Municipal District, council officials, community and business representatives who supported the



*Pictured at the official launch of 'Project Carlow 2040' in November 2020 (l-r): Kathleen Holohan, Chief Executive of Carlow County Council, Tom O'Neill, Cathaoirleach of Carlow County Council, and Cllr Fergal Browne, Mayor of Carlow Municipal District.*

development of 'Project Carlow 2040'.

He also thanked the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Darragh O'Brien, on behalf of the council and community, for the URDF funding which, he added "will help to start to realise this vision for Carlow Town".

#### "REAL VOTE OF CONFIDENCE"

The Chief Executive of Carlow County Council, Kathleen Holohan, said: "We're delighted that our application for funding under the Urban Regeneration Development Fund has been successful and it will assist the council in delivering a transformed town centre.

"The allocation of €9.79 million to Carlow Town represents a real vote of confidence by the Government in the future of Carlow Town and recognises the value of local collaboration and consultation when putting resources into rebuilding, recovering, and renewing town centres."

Holohan conveyed her thanks to all those who engaged Carlow County Council during the application development. These included the elected members, public representatives, property owners, Carlow Town Development

## STRATEGY'S SIX KEY INTERVENTION AREAS

Following extensive public consultation, six key interventions areas identified in the strategy, will play a central role in delivering 'Project Carlow 2040' objectives over the next 20 years:

- Town Centre – Potato Market and Barrack Street
- Cultural Quarter (including links to the Railway Station)
- The Barrow Track/Civic Spine
- The Pembroke District
- The Burrin Riverfront
- Link Streets (Dublin Street and Tullow Street)

To achieve the masterplan's vision for Carlow to be a more innovative, ambitious and successful place, greater collaborations between the private and public sectors will be encouraged. It has also been acknowledged that that the active involvement by key stakeholders and strategic partners in the regeneration process will be critical for its success.



## CARLOW REGENERATION

Forum, County Carlow Chamber, IT Carlow, IDA, Enterprise Ireland, Carlow College, Carlow Tourism, Carlow Farmers Market, An Garda Síochána, St Catherine's Community Services Centre, Carlow Regional Youth Services and Fáilte Ireland, in shaping and developing the URDF application.

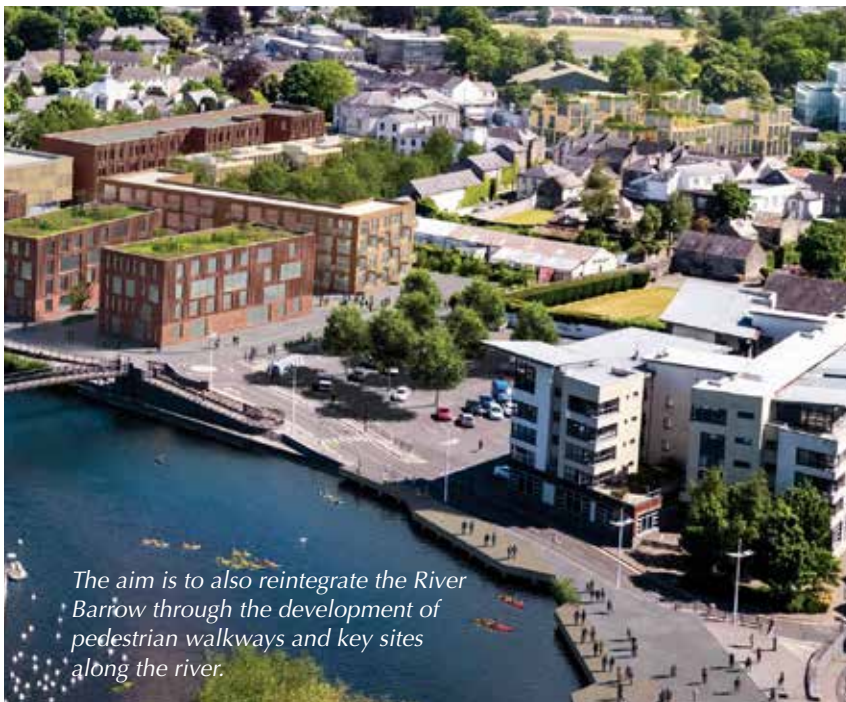
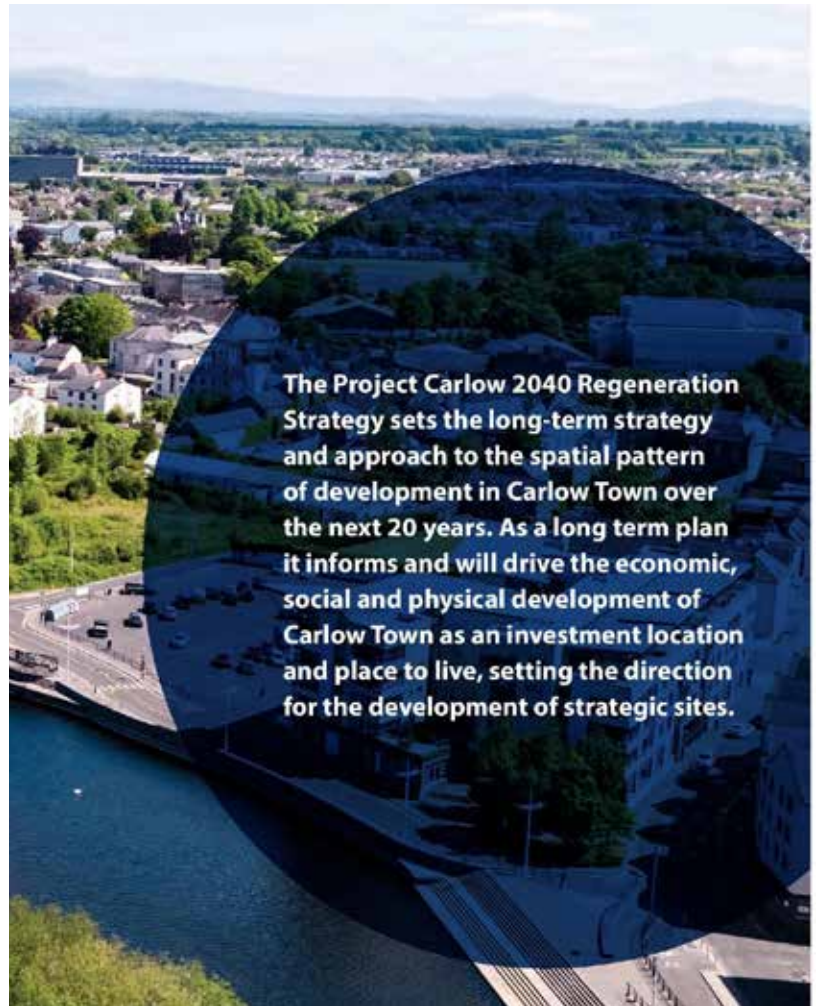
"Carlow County Council is determined to take the lead when it comes to driving economic development and attracting national investment in key capital projects not just in Carlow Town but across the County," she noted.

### INNOVATIVE PROJECTS

Outlining the project proposals to be developed under this funding, Michael Rainey, Carlow County Council's Director of Services, explained: "This URDF funding provides for a series of ambitious and innovative regeneration projects to be delivered over the next number of years, designed to enhance the town from the viewpoint of connectivity, experience and wellbeing."

He said that the funding will facilitate three major regeneration interventions. The first element is the Barrack Street Pedestrian Link, which will see the creation of a pedestrian and cycle-friendly space connecting Potato Market to Barrack Street and the introduction of planting and seating to improve the public realm.

The second of these elements will involve major renewal and improvement measures to



Barrack St, Shamrock Square, Kennedy Avenue and Tullow Street. The final element is the creation of a new pedestrian and cycle-friendly linkage from the Railway Station to the town centre through Carlow College.

Explaining the process for the development of these projects, Rainey said that each element of the project will be designed "in partnership with our key stakeholders and will be subject to the Part VIII planning process where we look forward to hearing the views of the public and our continued positive engagement with representative organisations and the general public".

The Mayor of Carlow Municipal District, Cllr Fergal Browne, said, "This is a game changer for Carlow Town and its future regeneration as envisioned in Project Carlow 2040," as he welcomed the funding, and thanked fellow members in Carlow Municipal District for supporting the development of this application.