

# PUBLIC SERVICE INNOVATION FUNDS

## PROJECT INVESTMENT FOR SIX LOCAL AUTHORITIES

A total of 17 winning projects chosen for this year's Public Service Innovation Fund to be awarded a total of €725,000 have included projects from Cork City Council, Dublin City Council, Waterford City & County Council, Leitrim County Council and Donegal County Council.

The purpose of the fund, operated by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform (DPER), is to turn innovative ideas from public service organisations into reality.

From the 83 submissions received, a total of 17 successful projects were selected by an industry panel to receive funding across three categories – Digital Transformation, Citizen Support Innovation, plus Green and Sustainable Initiatives. Overall, DPER awarded an investment of €725,000 to provide support for all projects.

### THE SEVEN WINNING LOCAL AUTHORITY PROJECTS



**Comhairle Cathrach Chorcaí**  
**Cork City Council**

#### CORK CITY COUNCIL

*Category: Digital Transformation*

*Project Title: Establishing an Irish Local Government Information Sharing Analysis Centre*

*Amount Awarded: €45,000.*

Cork City Council aims to create Ireland's first Local Government Information Sharing Analysis Centre (ISAC) to counter cyber threats and allow two-way sharing of information between the private and public sectors.

Information Sharing Analysis Centres (ISACs) are non-profit organisations that provide a central resource for gathering information on cyber threats as well as allowing two-way sharing of information between the private and the public sector.

The ISAC would be comprised of all 31 local authorities and the Local Government Management Agency (LGMA). The five collaborating partners in this proposal are Cork City Council, the LGMA, the HIS Liaison Group, IVI Maynooth University and the National Cyber Security Centre.



#### DUBLIN CITY COUNCIL

*Category: Citizen Support Innovation*

*Project Title: BETAhood*

*Amount Awarded: €35,000*

Dublin City Council will establish 'BETAhood' – an online platform to enable local neighbourhoods to request and trial 'tactical urbanism' solutions in their area and community.

This solution will also feature a budgeting framework to allow local communities to make funding decisions, that will feature operational processes for the rapid deployment of innovative trials in local neighbourhoods and communities.

#### DUBLIN CITY COUNCIL

*Project Category: Green & Sustainability Initiatives*

*Project Title: Climate Ready Housing*

*Amount Awarded: €27,000*

The project aims to develop a deeper understanding in the associated requirements for the retrofitting of social housing (BER B2 or cost optimal) units, and to create a digital twin in three Dublin City Council social housing units located in Dominick Street West, Dublin 7.

This project will establish a theoretical baseline to measure the performance of various retrofitting strategies, monitor and measure their outcomes, identify any policy gaps and confirm any changes in energy consumption by occupants.

The anticipated results from this project will assist in shaping future policy decisions in the efforts of reducing Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions associated with the retrofitting and energy consumption of social housing units, while providing quality housing and meeting the demand for additional social housing units.



**Comhairle Chontae Liatroma**  
**Leitrim County Council**

#### LEITRIM COUNTY COUNCIL

*Category: Citizen Support Innovation*

*Project Title: Leitrim Connected*

*Amount Awarded: €50,000*

Leitrim County Council will use Geographic Information System (GIS)

technology based on ArcGIS (a location-based analytics tool) to develop a new way of communicating key emergency and non-emergency information to the widest community possible.

ArcGIS will facilitate the single entry and issue of geo-targeted alerts, across multiple channels (SMS, a dedicated messaging app, social media platforms), which will be of benefit to both the agencies operating the system and the citizens of Leitrim alike. Alerts can be targeted to citizens based on several criteria such as community area, distance from a location and a route corridor.



**WATERFORD CITY & COUNTY COUNCIL**

*Category: Green and Sustainable Initiatives*

*Project Title: Smart Bring Banks*

*Amount Awarded: €45,000*

This project seeks to promote sustainable consumption patterns by diverting waste from landfill. Waterford City & County Council will deploy sensors to bottle banks across pilot sites to manage the capacity, alerting bin companies when the bottle bank is ready to be emptied. In addition, the sensors will be used to develop an app that can be used by the public to determine the capacity of a bottle bank before they make the journey.



**Comhairle Contae Dhún na nGall Donegal County Council**

**DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL**

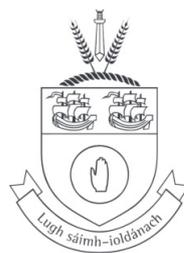
*Category: Green and Sustainable Initiatives*

*Project Title: A novel organic approach to the treatment and control of Japanese knotweed using microbial remediation as an alternative to pesticide use*

*Amount Awarded: €47,000*

Donegal County Council proposes a novel approach to tackle the challenges posed by Japanese knotweed infestations by using a specially prepared compost. This will reduce the costs associated with its treatment and reduce its impact on the environment and infrastructure.

Japanese knotweed is regarded as one of Ireland’s top invasive plant species. Using the results of a pilot project co-ordinated by the Inishowen Rivers Trust, this project will examine the impact of mulch and extract to reduce the growth of Japanese knotweed in a controlled manner and to identify any challenges.



**Comhairle Contae Lú Louth County Council**

**LOUTH COUNTY COUNCIL**

*Category: Green and Sustainable Initiatives*

*Project Title: AI Powered Road Asset Management*

*Amount Awarded: €50,000*

Louth County Council aims to develop a digital twin of the county’s road network and intends to use AI solutions to improve intelligent identification of potholes and other road defects, as well as providing valuable information on several other highway assets including traffic signs and road markings.

The data collected will be incorporated into deterioration models and lifecycle planning models aimed at forecasting future condition of the road network and the required maintenance spend.

Visit [www.ops.gov.ie/networks/funding/projects-funded-in-2022/](http://www.ops.gov.ie/networks/funding/projects-funded-in-2022/) for full details.



**Michael McGrath**

*Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform, Michael McGrath TD, on announcing the recipients of the Public Service Innovation Fund 2022.*