



4 NEWS UPDATE

16 IRISH PLANNING AWARDS

This year's Irish Planning Awards, including the President's Award (won by Limerick City and Council), were presented by the Irish Planning Institute (IPI) on 28 September, to all category winners for the diverse range of projects and plans at local, county and regional levels.

19 SUSTAINABILITY PARTNERSHIP

Ireland's local authorities have collaborated with the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) to reach their decarbonising targets for 2030 under the SEAI's Public Sector 'Partnership' Support Programme.

21 PLANNING LEGISLATION

The new Planning and Development Bill 2023, which has now received Cabinet approval, is the culmination of a 15-month review of the planning system. The Bill, if enacted, will bring greater clarity, certainty and consistency to how planning decisions are made in Ireland.

29 DUBLIN HOUSING SCHEME

Under a new four-year initiative to support the housing market in the capital. Dublin City Council, Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown, South Dublin and Fingal County Councils are calling out to housing developers and home builders to help them to activate or complete turnkey residential units.

33 NORTH-WEST REGIONAL INVESTMENT

The Northern and Western Regional Assembly (NWRA) claims that a stimulus package of €570m should be provided

between now and the end of 2027 (the current EU funding period), with calls for the delivery of high-level priorities to support balanced regional development and to reduce regional inequalities in Ireland in its Pre-Budget Submission.

36 SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL

South Dublin County Council's development of 133 new cost rental apartments at Belgard Square North in Tallaght town centre, expected to be completed and occupied in 2025, represents the State's first standalone cost rental project by a local authority.

37 LIMERICK HOUSING INVESTMENT

Limerick City and County Council has collaborated with the European Investment Bank in an innovative partnership to drive retrofit investment and to reduce energy consumption and costs in social housing, thereby having a transformative impact on local communities in the region.

38 PROPERTY MANAGEMENT PLATFORM

A new property management software solution is being used by local authorities such as Meath County Council, approved housing bodies such as Tuath Housing and Respond, and the Land Development Agency. 'FairSelect' aims to make the application process for cost rental accommodation and the selection and management of tenants, fair, unbiased and transparent.

42 MEATH COUNTY COUNCIL

Meath's GAA Football Manager, Colm O'Rourke, has been appointed to chair the Meath Economic Development Forum, recently established to oversee the preparation and





implementation of the new Meath Economic Development Strategy. The Forum of business leaders and entrepreneurs will share their experiences to facilitate economic activity and growth in the county.

44 CROSS-BORDER ENVIRONMENT

Cross-border collaboration, funding, and the greater use of the Good Friday Agreement are key to protecting the environment north and south of the border, according to a new report 'Linking the Irish Environment' which found that divergence is likely to make it increasingly difficult for environment NGOs to operate and collaborate.

45 SEA PILOT CONSULTATION PROJECT

A pilot project has examined new approaches to public engagement as part of the Dundalk Local Area Plan 2024-2030 SEA (Strategic Environmental Assessment) in Louth. It was part of a research project aimed at enhancing SEA public participation in Ireland, funded by the Environmental Protection Agency and the Office of the Planning Regulator.



48 EUROPEAN NEWS

Ireland's renewable energy integration success has been cited as "an example for other EU Member States" by Seán Kelly MEP, when he hosted a recent conference on 'Powering up Europe: Unlocking Ireland's offshore wind potential to help achieve EU climate targets,' at the European Parliament in Brussels.

50 EU REGIONAL PROGRAMMES

Over €663m will be invested in 18 counties across the Southern Region and the Eastern & Midland Region over the next seven years to help create quality jobs, transition to low carbon and to support local authorities, the higher education sector, enterprises and public bodies in delivering balanced regional development.

52 ZERO CARBON INFRASTRUCTURE

The Zero Carbon Infrastructure project has set an ambitious goal to support eight cities and regions across Europe in their efforts to develop green transport and zero-carbon infrastructure. Cork City Council has joined seven European partners in this four-year project in a bid to reach the target of being a carbon-neutral city by 2030.



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