



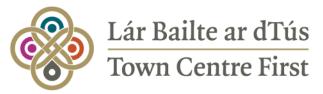
**Rialtas na hÉireann** Government of Ireland

## Town Centre First Progress Update

Donal Ó Murchadha

Retail Forum Town Centre First/Night Time Economy Working Group 07.03.2024





## National Office

- National Town Centre First Day
  - Town Centre First Brand
  - Town Centre First Website <u>www.towncentrefirst.ie</u>
- Town Centre First Suite of Supports 2024
  - Potential 130 Town Centre First locations.
  - Pilot 1 26 No. Towns
  - Pilot 2 26 No. TCF Plans + 78 Town Team Support Fund locations





## TCF Pilot – Phase 1

- Final draft/adopted Plans for 25 Pilot Towns Received.
  - Population 82,030 (2016 Census)
  - Town Team Members 344
  - Public engagements 630
  - Citizen responses 7,595
  - Projects Identified 749
- 1 further plan due in March.
- Funding deadline now closed.







- Commencement of Pilot Phase 2:
  - Consistent Methodology.
  - Driven by Learnings from Pilot Phase 1 Town Engagement, Projects identified.
  - Alignment with Policy develop clear plan process.
  - Digital Blueprints integrated into process.
- Expansion of Funding Associated with Town Centre First
  - Thrive Scheme
  - Continued and strengthened involvement of large urban centres.





## Digital Hub Pilot

- Explore resourcing of potential joint pilot based on engagement with Scottish Towns Partnership
  - Oban (Scotland)
- Potential platform that provides digital infrastructure for Towns (/City)
  - Powerful engagement Tools to promote economic growth, social cohesion, civic pride.
  - Mobile apps & map portal for residents & visitors, and online portals for businesses and placemakers.
  - Data to measure and understand the health of places.
  - Local e-commerce
  - Internet of Things (IoT) in the public Realm. Making things accessible and relevant.



Questions?

