

**Press Release 18 July 2023**

**€6.5 million URDF Call 3 Funding announcement for Wexford County Council**

The Government has just announced (11th July) a €6.5 million allocation to Wexford County Council as part of a national €150million revolving fund introduced to tackle long term vacancy and dereliction within our towns.

Wexford County Council recently surveyed the four eligible towns in the County (Wexford, New Ross, Enniscorthy and Gorey) for long term derelict properties with a view to potentially acquiring such properties and moving ownership from passive ownership to active development ownership. The survey results were submitted as part of an application under the Urban Renewal and Development Fund (URDF) Call 3 Funding.

The €6.5 million revolving fund will now be used to identify and target long term derelict and vacant properties such as those on the Derelict Site Register maintained by Wexford County Council. The Derelict Site Register currently has 68 properties listed as long-term derelict.

Commenting on the new fund Cllr John Fleming, Cathaoirleach of Wexford County Council:

“I am delighted to announce a €6.5 million fund for Wexford County Council to continue to breathe new life into our towns. Focusing on dereliction and vacancy makes sense. This revolving fund has created the opportunity to continue to rejuvenate our main towns. With this fund, we now have a comprehensive set of measures in place to make sure that everyone – individual buyers, developers and the local authority – have a really good incentive to bring disused and abandoned properties back into useful occupancy.”

Eamonn Hore, Deputy Chief Executive of Wexford County Council commented:

“This €6.5 million revolving fund is a very welcome fund for our 4 main towns. The fund will help transform and promote vibrant communities in our main towns Wexford, New Ross, Enniscorthy and Gorey. With this fund we will increase the pace at which vacant and derelict buildings are brought back into productive use such as new homes”

Diarmuid Houston, Acting Director of Service, Wexford County Council added:

“This is a good news story for our Derelict Sites Team who put together a very detailed and exhaustive application to URDF Call 3 Fund. I am delighted to see an allocation of a €6.5 million revolving fund. This fund will really help us to target long-term derelict properties in our main towns with a view to bringing them back into residential use. Our Derelict Sites Team, Property Unit, Vacant Homes Office and Town Centre Regeneration Officer will be working rapidly to make use of the fund in the coming months”.

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