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Arna chomhchistiú ag
an Aontas Eorpach
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European Union



Tionól Réigiúnach
an Tuaiscirt & an Iarthair
Northern & Western
Regional Assembly

THRIVE

TOWN CENTRE FIRST HERITAGE REVIVAL SCHEME

APPLICATION GUIDELINES

THRIVE is co-funded by the Government of Ireland and the European Union under the Northern and Western Regional Programme 2021-2027



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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 THRIVE AT A GLANCE

THRIVE – the Town Centre First Heritage Revival Scheme a grant scheme for Local Authorities and is delivered under Ireland’s two ERDF Regional Programmes:

- Northern and Western Regional Programme 2021-2027
- Southern, Eastern and Midland Regional Programme 2021-2027

Targeting NPF and RSES designated settlements, the regions’ key towns, strategic growth centres and cities; THRIVE will support local authorities and their citizens to re-imagine town centres and to transform publicly-owned vacant or derelict heritage buildings within those town centres through renovation, renewal, and adaptive reuse.

THRIVE supports **locally developed plans** that take an integrated strategic approach to the regeneration of towns and **locally selected projects** that assist in creating town centres that function as viable, vibrant, and attractive locations for people to live, work and visit while also functioning as the business, service, social, cultural and recreational hub for the local community.

THRIVE offers 100% grants to local authorities under two strands:

- Strand 1: Grant amounts of between €40K and €200K towards integrated urban strategies and project pipeline development
- Strand 2: Grant amounts of between €2M and €7M towards the renovation and adaptive reuse of vacant or derelict heritage buildings in public control or ownership

THRIVE has been co-designed by the Regional Assemblies and the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage to address European, national and regional policy objectives.

THRIVE promotes a citizen-centred community-led approach to planning and design under the Town Centre First framework and will fund projects that embrace the core values of the New European Bauhaus of sustainability, aesthetics, and inclusion.

THRIVE is co-funded by the Government of Ireland and the European Union.



New European Bauhaus
beautiful | sustainable | together





1.2 THRIVING REGIONS

The European Union support is provided through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) with co-funding from the Government of Ireland. The ERDF aims to strengthen economic, social, and territorial cohesion in the European Union by correcting imbalances between its regions.

The ERDF Regulation¹ provides for an increased focus on sustainable urban development through the support of integrated strategies to tackle more effectively the economic, environmental, climate, demographic and social challenges affecting urban areas, with a minimum target of 8% of the ERDF resources allocated at national level for that purpose. The two ERDF Regional Programmes in Ireland go further than that with THRIVE, allocating approximately 15% of available resources towards sustainable urban development in our regions.

THRIVE funding Northern and Western Regional Programme 2021-2027 provides funding to designated settlements as set out in the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy 2020 – 2032. A total allocation of €30.5 million is available to Local Authorities through the Northern and Western Regional Programme 2021-2027 to support THRIVE projects in key towns and strategic growth centres.

THRIVE supports the compact growth and balanced regional development objectives of the National Planning Framework and of the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies.

1.3 THRIVING TOWN CENTRES

On 4th February 2022, the Government published Town Centre First², which sets out a coordinated, whole-of-government policy framework to tackle vacancy, combat dereliction and breathe new life into towns of all sizes across Ireland, so that their centres can function as the sustainable and vibrant heart of the communities they serve. THRIVE has been developed to deliver on Action 28 of Town Centre First which calls on the Regional Assemblies to support Local Authorities in delivering the objectives of the Town Centre First Policy through ERDF funding for urban development.

¹ Regulation (EU) 2021/1058 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 June 2021 on the European Regional Development Fund and on the Cohesion Fund

² Town centre first website - <https://towncentrefirst.ie/>



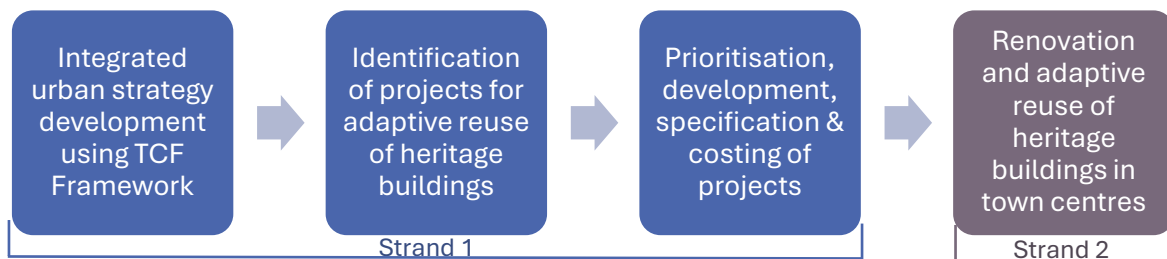
THRIVE promotes an integrated strategic approach to the regeneration of Designated Settlements (listed in Appendix 1) using a Town Centre First Framework³. THRIVE funding supports town centre regeneration under two strands:

Strand 1: Integrated urban strategies and project pipeline development

- Development and enhancement of integrated urban strategies using a Town Centre First Framework, e.g., a Town Centre First Masterplan.
- Identification of projects that promote the conservation and adaptive reuse of our built heritage stock while reducing vacancy and dereliction in town centres.
- Prioritisation, development and specification of project proposals to create a pipeline of investment-ready built heritage refurbishment, renovation and adaptive reuse projects.

Strand 2: Renovation and adaptive reuse of vacant or derelict heritage buildings

- Delivery of selected pilot and pathfinder projects that will have a positive and transformative impact on town centre vacancy and dereliction and that will inform the approach for other towns at earlier stages in the process.



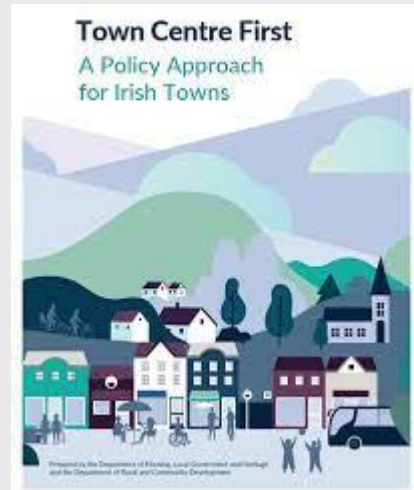
³ Towns Centre First – A Policy Approach for Irish Towns - <https://www.gov.ie/pdf/?file=https://assets.gov.ie/215052/3402995b-3045-4e7a-b839-12ca21a02611.pdf#page=null>



Town Centre First (TCF)

Key elements of the TCF Approach are:

- Collaborative and Plan led: Town Centre First Plans are integrated urban strategies produced by a Town Team of local community and business representatives, that set out a vision, and identify and develop priority projects to drive the revitalisation of their town centres
- Delivery Focused: Local authorities with eligible towns have been provided with a dedicated senior level Town Regeneration Officers who will lead Town Centre First implementation at a local level and support local Town Teams in the preparation of their TCF Plan
- Integrated: A National Town Centre First Office has been established within the Local Government Management Agency to drive TCF actions, coordinate stakeholder engagement, and share best practice at a national level and across the local government sector.





1.4 THRIVING CITIZENS, THRIVING COMMUNITIES

THRIVE places citizens and their communities at the heart of the development of integrated urban strategies, the reimagination of town centres and the creative and sustainable reuse of vacant or derelict heritage buildings in public control or ownership.

This is consistent with the Town Centre First approach and with the European policy objective to bring Europe closer to citizens *by fostering integrated and inclusive social, economic and environmental development, culture, natural heritage, sustainable tourism, and security in urban areas.*

The promotion of the values and working principles of the New European Bauhaus (NEB) under THRIVE will ensure that the selected projects are conceived and developed with a reinforced citizen and stakeholder involvement. For further information on the NEB please refer to Appendix 2.

The New European Bauhaus (NEB)

On 15 September 2021, the European Commission adopted a Communication⁴ setting out the concept of the New European Bauhaus (NEB). The NEB brings a cultural and creative dimension to the European Green Deal to strengthen sustainable innovation, technology and economy. The NEB is about the spaces where we live and the way we would like to live together, while respecting the planet and protecting nature. A triangle of three inseparable core values guides the NEB:

- sustainability, from climate goals to circularity and biodiversity;
- aesthetics, quality of experience and style, beyond functionality; and
- inclusion, including accessibility and affordability.

“Through its transdisciplinary and participatory approach, the New European Bauhaus reinforces the role of local and regional communities, industries, innovators and creative minds that work together to improve our quality of life. Cohesion policy will transform new ideas into action at the local level.” Commissioner for Cohesion and Reforms, Elisa Ferreira



New European Bauhaus
beautiful | sustainable | together

⁴ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions: New European Bauhaus, COM(2021) 573
https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_4626



2. FUNDING UNDER THRIVE STRAND 1

2.1 WHO CAN APPLY AND FOR HOW MUCH?

- Strand 1 applications will be accepted from local authorities responsible for a NPF / RSES designated settlement in the programme area (listed in Appendix 1).
- Strand 1 applications will be restricted to one application per listed Local Authority for each eligible designated settlement.
- Local authorities responsible for more than one designated settlement may submit a separate Strand 1 application for each designated settlement.
- Strand 1 is a competitive funding call. Funding awards under Strand 1 will be for amounts between €40,000 and €200,000 for each eligible designated settlement.

2.2 ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

Strand 1 funding supports the following activities:

➤ **Development and/or enhancement of integrated urban strategies for designated settlements.**

These strategies must meet the following criteria:

- (a) They must use the Town Centre First Framework which promotes a multi-disciplinary, participatory and community led approach to identify and develop projects and initiatives tackling town centre regeneration, vacancy and dereliction.
- (b) They must seek to promote the values and working principles of the New European Bauhaus and the implementation of circular economy principles in the built environment.
- (c) They must meet the criteria set out in Article 29 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 to be eligible for ERDF support.



(d) They must meet the criteria⁵ set out in Article 29 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060⁶ to be eligible for ERDF support.

- **Identification of projects that promote the conservation and adaptive reuse of our built heritage stock while reducing vacancy and dereliction in town centres.**

- **Prioritisation, development, and specification of project proposals to create a pipeline of investment-ready built heritage refurbishment, renovation and adaptive reuse projects, bringing one of them to a stage of readiness where it can be included in a Strand 2 application.** This may include the completion of any environmental screening or assessments that are required under national guidelines and that are required specifically for ERDF supported projects, see below.

Do No Significant Harm (DNSH)

Activities funded under THRIVE should cause no significant harm to the environmental objectives as outlined in Articles 9 and 17 of Regulation (EU) 2020/852⁷ to facilitate sustainable investment. The environmental objectives are (1) climate change mitigation, (2) climate change adaptation, (3) sustainable use and protection of water and marine resources, (4) the transition to a circular economy, (5) pollution prevention and control or (6) the protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems. Please refer to Northern and Western Regional Programme – Do No Significant Harm Assessment⁸ for the assessment already completed for the Northern and Western Regional Programme.

⁵ To be eligible for ERDF support, integrated urban strategies must comply with Article 29 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 [the ‘Common Provisions Regulation’] which requires that these strategies must contain the following elements:

- a. the geographical area covered by the strategy;
- b. an analysis of the development needs and the potential of the area, including economic, social and environmental interlinkages;
- c. a description of an integrated approach to address the identified development needs and the potential of the area;
- d. a description of the involvement of partners in accordance with Article 8 in the preparation and in the implementation of the strategy using a multi-level governance principle and bottom-up approach. Partners should include regional, local, urban and other public authorities, economic and social partners, relevant bodies representing civil society, such as environmental partners, non-governmental organisations, and bodies responsible for promoting social inclusion, fundamental rights, rights of persons with disabilities, gender equality and non-discrimination; and research organisations and universities, where appropriate;
- e. they may also contain a list of operations to be supported; and
- f. existing strategic documents concerning the covered areas may be used as territorial strategies if they comply with (a) to (e) above.

⁶ Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 of the European Parliament and the Council 24 June 2021 [the ‘Common Provisions Regulation’] - <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32021R1060>

⁷ European Parliament and of the Council of 18 June 2020 on the establishment of a framework to facilitate sustainable investment, and amending Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A32020R0852>

⁸ Northern and Western Regional Programme – Do No Significant Harm Assessment - [rsk-dnsh-report-603790-issued-updated-290722.pdf](https://www.nwra.ie/sites/default/files/2022-09/rsk-dnsh-report-603790-issued-updated-290722.pdf)



Strand 1 applications applying for funding for the development and/or enhancement of integrated urban strategies for designated settlements or processes to identify projects that promote the conservation and adaptive reuse of built heritage will not be required to undertake a DNSH assessment but should respect the 6 environmental objectives and should not cause significant harm.

Strand 1 applications for the prioritisation, development and specification of project proposal to create a pipeline of investment-ready built heritage refurbishment, renovation and adaptive reuse projects will only be required to confirm that they will respect the 6 principles of DNSH as outlined in Appendix 5 if they are undertaking design or development work related to a specific building project that they are preparing for funding under Strand 2.

2.3 ELIGIBLE EXPENDITURE

THRIVE Strand 1 supports the use of procured multi-disciplinary services and/or developing the capacity and skills within a Local Authority including transnational/interregional exchange of experience activities as required. Planning and project development costs may include feasibility studies, historic character assessments, cost analysis and business case development, survey and site investigations, capacity building, stakeholder engagement, consents and planning, design, master planning, project specification, environmental screening or other multi-disciplinary skills required to ensure project proposals are procurement-ready and Public Spending Code aligned and suitable for submission under Strand 2.

THRIVE Strand 1 supports expenditure incurred and paid and related directly to Strand 1 eligible activities under the following cost categories:

Direct Costs⁹

- Direct staff costs¹⁰
- Direct staff travel & subsistence

⁹ Direct costs are those costs which are directly related to an individual activity of the entity, where the link with this individual activity can be demonstrated

¹⁰ Direct staff costs include the total remuneration, including in-kind benefits, taxes and employees' social security contributions and the employer's compulsory and voluntary social contributions in line with Commission Notice Guidelines on the use of Simplified Cost Options within the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESI) – Revised Version (2021/C 200/01) Staff costs related to individuals who work on part-time assignment on the operation may be calculated as a fixed percentage of the gross employment costs, in line with a fixed percentage of time worked on the operation per month, with no obligation to establish a separate working time registration system. The employer shall issue a document for employees setting out that fixed percentage.



- Consultancy / professional expertise, e.g., engineering, environment¹¹, planning, heritage, architecture, surveying, historic character assessments, stakeholder management, equality, disability access, finance, energy, sustainability, legal, procurement, health and safety.
- Survey, enabling¹² and investigation works¹³
- Capacity building activities, including transnational/interregional exchange and conservation skills and training.
- Room hire, refreshments and other costs linked to stakeholder and/or citizen engagement
- Communication and publicity costs
- Other Direct Costs to be itemised in budget template

Indirect Costs¹⁴

- Indirect costs will be calculated and paid at 7% of the total eligible direct costs

VAT paid is eligible only if non-recoverable and VAT payments are supported by a full audit trail. The Local Authority will be required to provide confirmation that any costs incurred which include VAT are non-recoverable under National VAT legislation.

2.4 ERDF PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

The Northern and Western Regional Programme 2021-2027 includes a selection of 'output indicators' and 'result indicators' that are used to measure the progress of projects funded under THRIVE. Targets have been set at programme-level for each of these performance indicators.

Local authorities that are the beneficiaries of grants under THRIVE are required to set target values for these indicators at project-level and to report against these targets as each project progresses.

¹¹ Environmental consultancy may include support for Climate Proofing and Do No Significant Harm screening and assessments

¹² Enabling works are defined under section 15.1 of Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines for Planning Authorities 2011 - <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/0937a-architectural-heritage-protection-guidelines-for-planning-authorities/>

¹³ Any such works must respect the principle of Do No Significant Harm, see Appendix 5

¹⁴ Indirect Costs are defined as costs which are not or cannot be connected directly to the implementation of the operation in question. Such costs could include administrative expenses, for which it is difficult to determine precisely the amount attributable to a specific operation or project (typical administrative/staff expenditure, such as: management costs, recruitment expenses, costs for the accountant or the cleaner, etc.; telephone, water or electricity expenses, and so on) in line with Commission Notice Guidelines on the use of Simplified Cost Options within the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESI) – Revised Version (2021/C 200/01).



Strand 1 Output Indicators

As Strand 1 outputs are largely designed to support Strand 2 outputs and results, local authorities that are the beneficiaries of awards under THRIVE Strand 1 will only be required to set target achievement values against one “common output indicator”, see below.

Indicator Code	Indicator Name	Measurement Unit	Milestone 2024	Target 2029
RCO75	Strategies for integrated territorial development supported	contributions to strategies		

A “common output indicator” is one that has been defined by the Commission and is used across all Member States. RCO75 simply counts the number of financial contributions (in this case, grants) supporting strategies for integrated territorial development (in this case, integrated urban strategies).

- The “Milestone 2024” value is the target level of achievement by the end of 2024.
- The “Target 2029” value is the target level of achievement by the end of 2029.

Given that all Strand 1 projects will receive a single grant towards developing a strategy for integrated territorial development, and that all Strand 1 projects will be required to complete their work in 2024, the target level of achievement in 2024 and 2029 for all projects under Strand 1 is predetermined.

Indicator Code	Indicator Name	Measurement Unit	Milestone 2024	Target 2029
RCO75	Strategies for integrated territorial development supported	contributions to strategies	1	1

'Output indicator' means an indicator to measure the specific deliverables of the intervention. - CPR Article 2



3. FUNDING UNDER THRIVE STRAND 2

3.1 WHO CAN APPLY AND FOR HOW MUCH?

- Strand 2 applications will be accepted from Local Authorities responsible for a NPF / RSES designated settlement within the programme area. Local Authorities who have already been awarded funding under THRIVE Strand 2 Call 1 are not eligible for THRIVE Strand 2 Call 2 (Please refer to Appendix 1).
- Strand 2 applications will be restricted to one application for one eligible designated settlement per Local Authority.
- Local authorities are responsible for selecting the project that is included in an application for Strand 2 funding.
- Local authorities that are responsible for more than one designated settlement may not submit projects for more than one designated settlement, they are required to select one project from one of their designated settlements.
- Strand 2 is a competitive funding call. Funding awards under Strand 2 will be for amounts between €2 million and €7 million towards the renovation and adaptive reuse of one vacant or derelict heritage building project¹⁵ in one eligible designated settlement.

3.2 ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

Strand 2 funding supports the following activities:

➤ **Refurbishment, Renovation and adaptive reuse of vacant or derelict heritage buildings**

Local Authorities are responsible for selecting one priority project from a list of potential projects that are identified in an integrated urban strategy¹⁶ that is aligned with strategic

¹⁵ Strand 2 projects should generally be limited to single or adjoining buildings. In exceptional circumstances, funding may support a collection of buildings that share the same public realm or form part of the same street. Strand 2 funding is not intended to support multiple building projects on separate streets in a town centre.

¹⁶ To be eligible for ERDF support, integrated urban strategies must comply with Article 29 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 [the 'Common Provisions Regulation'] which requires that these strategies must contain the following elements:

- g. the geographical area covered by the strategy;
- h. an analysis of the development needs and the potential of the area, including economic, social and environmental interlinkages;
- i. a description of an integrated approach to address the identified development needs and the potential of the area;
- j. a description of the involvement of partners in accordance with Article 8 in the preparation and in the implementation of the strategy using a multi-level governance principle and bottom-up approach. Partners should include regional, local, urban and other public authorities, economic and social partners, relevant bodies representing civil society, such as environmental partners, non-governmental organisations, and bodies responsible for promoting social inclusion, fundamental rights, rights



spatial planning policy, and that promotes the reuse of existing built heritage to tackle vacancy and dereliction in urban centres in line with the Town Centre First policy.

Funding will support projects that:

- (a) Support the adaptive reuse of built heritage and urban regeneration in town centres to address vacancy and dereliction.
- (b) Will have a positive and transformative impact on town centre vacancy and dereliction and will inform the approach for other towns at earlier stages in the process, in line with the Town Centre First approach.
- (c) Promote the values and working principles of the New European Bauhaus to ensure that the selected projects are enriching (beautiful), sustainable and inclusive and are conceived and developed with a reinforced citizen and stakeholder involvement.
- (d) Promote the implementation of circular economy principles in the built environment.
- (e) Include only heritage buildings that are in Local Authority ownership or where the Local Authority has entered into a property transfer or sharing agreement with another state body prior to submitting an application.

Heritage Buildings

For the purposes of THRIVE Strand 2, heritage buildings are structures that form part of the architectural heritage and are of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest. Save in exceptional circumstances, it is expected that a heritage building will be a Protected Structure, a Proposed Protected Structure, or will contribute significantly to the character of an Architectural Conservation Area, each as defined under the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended. These buildings may include a mix of typologies ranging from large-scale institutional or industrial buildings, such as schools, barracks, churches, convents, castles, etc. to other historic landmark buildings such as banks, post-offices and courthouses. Applicants are reminded of the importance of carrying out a professional assessment of the character of the Settlement's historic built environment.

Vacancy & Dereliction

Strand 2 is targeted at projects that bring vacant or derelict heritage buildings located in urban centres back into use to assist in revitalising our cities and towns, and the enhancement of heritage assets that have fallen into redundancy. Local authorities will be required to provide confirmation that an eligible building or buildings is vacant, derelict or underused¹⁷ and to

of persons with disabilities, gender equality and non-discrimination; and research organisations and universities, where appropriate;

k. they may also contain a list of operations to be supported; and

existing strategic documents concerning the covered areas may be used as territorial strategies if they comply with (a) to (e) above.

¹⁷ Underused could be a proportion of the building or it could be the capacity for use is restricted due to the condition of the building and the Local Authority will need to justify this in their application.



clearly demonstrate that the building/s rehabilitation and reuse has potential to drive significant town centre regeneration.

Public control or ownership

The heritage buildings included in a Strand 2 project must already be in Local Authority ownership and/or the Local Authority must have a property transfer or property sharing agreement in place with another state body prior to submitting an application. Following regeneration, the properties will remain in public control or ownership for a period of not less than 5 years from the final payment to the Local Authority under THRIVE Strand 2 (or within the period set out in State aid rules, if relevant). This is a mandatory requirement for ERDF support¹⁸ and any change in control or ownership within the defined period must be notified to the Managing Authority and may lead to the recoupment of all or part of the funding.

Sustainable end-use of heritage buildings

Projects will be required to identify sustainable viable end use/s of the heritage buildings. This might include utilisation for public services/administration, education or training, community and youth activities including arts/gallery, culture, tourism, sports and leisure.

There may also be a mixed use for these eligible buildings, which may include residential, commercial, or other appropriate mix of uses for the enhancement of town centres e.g., café, retail shops, theatre or SMEs, subject to compliance with State aid rules.

Environmental Screening and Assessment

Projects relating to the building, renovation and refurbishment of built heritage will require local authorities to ensure a suitable mechanism is in place to ensure the climate proofing of investments in this infrastructure. The assessment of Climate Proofing should assess both Climate Neutrality (mitigation of climate change involves for example decarbonisation, energy efficiency, energy saving and deploying renewable forms of energy) and Climate Resilience (adaptation to climate change involves for example resilience to the impacts of climate change including acute events such as floods, cloudbursts, droughts, heatwaves, wildfires, storms and landslides and hurricanes and chronic events such as projected sea level rise, changes in average precipitation, soil moisture and air humidity.) Please refer to Appendix 4 for full details and template to undertake the climate proofing assessment for projects.

Applicants will be required to confirm that a climate proofing assessment has been undertaken for investments in infrastructure which have an expected lifespan of at least 5 years and a copy of this climate proofing assessment should be included with the application and the template in Appendix 4 should be completed.

¹⁸ Article 65 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 – Durability of Operations



Do No Significant Harm (DNSH)

Activities funded under THRIVE should cause no significant harm to the environmental objectives as outlined in Articles 9 and 17 of Regulation (EU) 2020/852¹⁹ to facilitate sustainable investment. The environmental objectives are (1) climate change mitigation, (2) climate change adaptation, (3) sustainable use and protection of water and marine resources, (4) the transition to a circular economy, (5) pollution prevention and control or (6) the protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems. Please refer to Northern and Western Regional Programme – Do No Significant Harm Assessment²⁰ for the assessment already completed for the Northern and Western region.

All applications for funding under Strand 2 will be required to complete a DNSH assessment as outlined in Appendix 5 to outline how the Local Authority proposed project will address the inclusions and recommendations outlined in the Northern and Western Regional Programme – Do No Significant Harm Assessment. In addition, local authorities should also demonstrate how they will promote sustainable development under 6 principles of Do No Significant Harm (DNSH) and report on any positive interventions they are planning to undertake.

Applicants will be required to provide the following confirmations:

- that they will promote sustainable development including the 6 principles of “Do No Significant Harm (DNSH)” within the meaning of Article 17 of Regulation (EU) 2020/852²¹ of the European Parliament and of the and they have completed the appropriate DNSH templates in Appendix 5.
- that the applicant will consider and report on any positive interventions their works achieve in supporting the 6 principles of DNSH as outlined in the Northern and Western Regional Programme DNSH Assessment²⁰.
- That the applicant has reviewed the Northern and Western Regional Programme DNSH Assessment undertaken in July 2022 and have undertaken all necessary DNSH assessments and impacts for any works proposed under Strand 2 and have incorporated the necessary mitigations required.

Readiness, Visibility and Sustainability

¹⁹ European Parliament and of the Council of 18 June 2020 on the establishment of a framework to facilitate sustainable investment, and amending Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A32020R0852>

²⁰ Northern and Western Regional Programme – Do No Significant Harm Assessment - [rsk-dnsh-report-603790-issued-updated-290722.pdf](#)

²¹ Regulation (EU) 2020/852 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 June 2020 on the establishment of a framework to facilitate sustainable investment, and amending Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 - <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32020R0852&from=EN>



Strand 2 funding will be focused on projects that are at an advanced stage of readiness, that create strong visibility for European Union support and that take into account the most environmentally sustainable solutions.

3.3 ELIGIBLE EXPENDITURE

THRIVE Strand 2 supports the use of procured multi-disciplinary works and services to progress to completion the renovation project set out in the project proposal. This includes communication activities, engagement, capacity building, and transnational/interregional exchange of experience activities as required.

THRIVE Strand 2 supports expenditure incurred and paid and related directly to Strand 2 eligible activities under the following cost categories:

Direct Costs

- Build Costs:
 - Stabilisation, and construction costs including asbestos removal
 - Conservation and restoration costs
 - Internal structural costs
 - Energy efficiency measures
 - Plumbing, heating²², mechanical & electrical works
 - Façade enhancement
 - Fit-out costs including furniture, fixtures & equipment & final finishes & painting etc.
- Consultancy / professional expertise, e.g., engineering, environment, planning, heritage, architecture, surveying, stakeholder management, equality, disability access, finance, energy, sustainability, legal, procurement, health and safety, historic character assessments.
- Capacity building activities, including conservation skills and training and transnational/interregional exchange
- Room hire, refreshments and other costs linked to stakeholder and/or citizen engagement
- Communication and publicity costs
- Other Direct Costs to be itemised in budget template

Budgeted costs should be detailed in appendix 7 and should break down the costs between existing building, new extension (which may be required to facilitate accessibility or viability

²² Costs associated with the upgrade or replacement of stand-alone fossil fuel boilers and heating systems are no longer eligible under THRIVE. This is required to reflect a new Directive coming into place on 01/01/2025. [Commission issues guidance on phasing out financing for stand-alone fossil fuel boilers from 2025 - European Commission](#)



of the project), and any public realm works and should detail the costs to be incurred each year. A more detailed Order of Magnitude Costs document should also be included with this appendix matching the proposed budget summary along with detailed architectural drawings and map for the project.

VAT paid is eligible only if non-recoverable and VAT payments are supported by a full audit trail. The Local Authority will be required to provide confirmation that any costs incurred which include VAT are non-recoverable under National VAT legislation.

The following costs are not eligible for funding under Strand 2:

- Purchase of land
- Purchase of buildings
- Staff Costs
- Indirect Costs (e.g., overheads)
- Costs associated with the upgrade or replacement of fossil fuel boilers and heating systems.

3.4 ERDF PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

The Northern and Western Regional Programme 2021-2027 includes a selection of ‘output indicators’ and ‘result indicators’ that are used to measure the progress of projects funded under THRIVE. Targets have been set at programme level for each of these performance indicators.

Local Authorities that are the beneficiaries of grants under THRIVE are required to set target values for these indicators at project-level and to report against these targets as each project progresses.

Strand 2 Output Indicators

Local Authorities that are the beneficiaries of awards under THRIVE Strand 2 are required to set target achievement values against one “common output indicator”, see below.

Indicator Code	Indicator Name	Measurement Unit	Milestone 2024	Target 2029
RC076	Integrated projects for territorial development	Projects		



A “common output indicator” is one that has been defined by the Commission and is used across all Member States. RCO76 simply counts the number of integrated projects for territorial development (in this case, heritage building projects) supported through ERDF investment (in this case, grants).

- The “Milestone 2024” value is the target level of achievement by the end of 2024.
- The “Target 2029” value is the target level of achievement by the end of 2029.

Given that all Strand 2 grants will support a single project, and that all Strand 2 projects will be completed post-2024, the target level of achievement in 2024 and 2029 for all projects under Strand 2 is predetermined.

Indicator Code	Indicator Name	Measurement Unit	Milestone 2024	Target 2029
RCO76	Integrated projects for territorial development	Projects	0	1

'Output indicator' means an indicator to measure the specific deliverables of the intervention. - CPR Article 2

Strand 2 Result Indicators

Local authorities that are the beneficiaries of awards under THRIVE Strand 2 are also required to set target achievement values against two “result indicators”, see below. The baseline value for each of these result indicators is set at zero.

Indicator Code	Indicator Name	Measurement Unit	Baseline Value	Baseline Year	Target 2029
PSR05	Perceived impact of supported projects on revitalisation of town centre	Score	0	2022	
PSR06	Derelict and Vacant buildings regenerated	Square Meters	0	2022	

PSR05 measures citizens’ perceived impact of the project on revitalisation of town centre, post completion. A citizen survey will be completed post works within each designated



settlement allocated funding under Strand 2. This survey will collect qualitative data to support the wider evaluation of impact. Citizens will score the impact of the supported project on the revitalisation of the town centre on the basis of a score of -5 to +5. The target value for this result indicator is predetermined, it is expected that each location will achieve a target score of +3 following the completion of each project supported under the scheme by 2029.

PSR06 measures the Net Internal Area²³ of the derelict and vacant buildings renovated and available for use at the end of the project. Local authorities are required to populate this target value in their applications for Strand 2 support.

Where the net internal area inserted under Target 2029 below is different from Magnitude of Costs Report, QS Report etc please explain why i.e. Net Internal Floor Area square meters plus stairs/hallways square meters, plus new extension square meters, plus public realm square meters = total square meters etc.

Indicator Code	Indicator Name	Measurement Unit	Baseline Value	Baseline Year	Target 2029
PSR05	Perceived impact of supported projects on revitalisation of town centre	Score	0	2022	+3
PSR06	Derelict and Vacant buildings regenerated	Square Meters	0	2022	Tbc

'Result indicator' means an indicator to measure the effects of the interventions supported, with particular reference to the direct addressees, population targeted or users of infrastructure. – CPR Article 2

²³ The Society of Chartered Surveyors Ireland - Measuring Practice Guidance Notes - <https://scsi.ie/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/measuringprac2016.pdf>



4. GENERAL CONDITIONS

4.1 EU AND NATIONAL REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

All funding under THRIVE shall comply with the regulatory framework for ERDF co-financed programmes in Ireland, which are set by EU and National regulations and guidelines, including:

- Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 June 2021 [the ‘Common Provisions Regulation’ or ‘CPR’], as amended;
- Regulation (EU) No. 2021/1058 of 24 June 2021 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European Regional Development Fund and on the Cohesion Fund;
- Department of Public Expenditure, NDP Delivery and Reform Circular 21/2023 – National Eligibility Rules for Expenditure co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund under Ireland’s Partnership Agreement 2021-2027;
- Department of Public Expenditure, NDP Delivery and Reform Circular 09/2023 – Management and Control Procedures for the Funds encompassed by the European Union Common Provision Regulation (CPR) Programmes 2021-2027;
- Department of Public Expenditure, NDP Delivery and Reform’s Information and Communications Guidelines for European Structural and Investment Funds 2021-2027; and;
- EU Public Procurement Directives, National Public Procurement Regulations and guidelines.

4.2 ROLE OF THE NORTHERN AND WESTERN REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

The Northern and Western Regional Assembly is the Managing Authority for the Northern and Western Regional Programme 2021-2027 and is responsible for managing the Regional Programme and the schemes within it with a view to delivering on the programme objectives. In this capacity, the Northern and Western Regional Assembly will carry out, inter alia, the functions listed below in respect of THRIVE:

- Publication, promotion and management of funding calls
- Ensuring the assessment of applications and selection of projects is carried out as per the selection methodology and criteria set out in this call document
- Provision of a grant agreement to the beneficiary Local Authority setting out the award amount and the conditions for support



- Monitoring and evaluation of the progress of the projects in fulfilling the conditions for support and in meeting the objectives of the Regional Programme
- Monitoring and supporting communications activities at project and scheme level
- Ensuring that the obligatory elements of audit trail set are maintained in accordance with the regulatory requirements
- Carrying out management verifications on payment claims by the beneficiary local authorities to check eligibility of expenditure, validate performance and review compliance
- Confirming the outcomes of management verifications to the DHLGH and requesting release of grant payments to beneficiary local authorities by the DHLGH
- Supporting beneficiary local authorities with capacity building events and guidance
- Membership of the Monitoring Committee of the Regional Programme
- Membership of the THRIVE Steering Group and Evaluation Panel (see Section 4.4 below)



4.3 ROLE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING, LOCAL GOVERNMENT & HERITAGE

The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage ('DHLGH') has worked closely with the Regional Assemblies in the design of the scheme to align and address European, national, and regional policy objectives, and will continue to play an active role in its delivery through:

- Membership of the Monitoring Committee of the Regional Programme
- Membership of the THRIVE Steering Group and Evaluation Panel (see Section 4.4 below)
- Supporting local authorities through the provision of guidance and promoting best practice in the implementation of supported activities
- Payment of THRIVE grants to local authorities at the request of the Managing Authority²⁴
- Provision of complementary funding through national schemes

4.4 THRIVE STEERING GROUP

A Steering Committee will be established to oversee project evaluation, to recommend awards of ERDF funding to selected projects, to oversee project delivery, and to address any significant issues that arise during implementation. The Steering Committee will comprise representatives of the Northern and Western Regional Assembly, the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage, the Department of Public Expenditure, NDP Delivery and Reform, and any other representatives to be agreed by the Member State and Managing Authority. An evaluation panel will be formed to oversee project selection and funding awards comprising members of the Steering Committee and an independent chairperson to be nominated by agreement of the Managing Authority and the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage.

4.5 GRANT FUNDING PRINCIPLES

Local Authorities should be aware of the requirements of the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform circular (13/2014) relating to the Management of and Accountability of Grants as well as the ERDF National Eligibility Rules for Expenditure 2021-2027.

²⁴ Grants in respect of projects approved under THRIVE will be paid to the beneficiaries in arrears, on the basis of verified expenditure, satisfactory progress and compliance with the terms of the Grant Agreement. Beneficiaries will submit their payment claims to the Managing Authority. On completion of the relevant checks, the Managing Authority will approve the payment. Grant payments (including both the EU and the National contribution) will be issued by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage at the request of the Managing Authority.



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Local authorities will be asked to confirm that the funds provided by the Managing Authority as outlined in the Grant Agreement will be used for the purposes intended and that institutions will comply with the Statement of Principles for Grantees (Appendix 2 of Circular 13/2014) relating to: Clarity; Governance; Value for money; and Fairness. Institutions must also ensure that all public procurement is consistent with National and EU procurement legislation.



4.6 EQUALITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS PRINCIPLES

THRIVE is co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund and regulated under the Common Provisions Regulation (EU) 2021/1060, which requires that all supported activities must be consistent with the ‘Horizontal Principles of ‘equality, human rights²⁵, rights of persons with disability²⁶ and non-discrimination’.²⁷

As such, all applicants will be asked to confirm at application stage that they have taken and will continue to take steps to prevent any discrimination based on gender, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age, sexual orientation and accessibility for persons with disabilities, throughout all aspects of programme related activities.

There is the expectation that leadership within the Local Authority will commit to ensuring that equality, human rights, rights of persons with disability and non-discrimination are considered for all programme related activities. Applicants should highlight how they will ensure steps will be taken to prevent any discrimination throughout the programme cycle as part of the application.

In addition to complying with the requirements set out by the Common Provisions Regulation, applicants are expected to be familiar with all relevant national policies when preparing their application with particular reference to the "Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty²⁸" as outlined under Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission Act 2014²⁹

Ireland’s “Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty” provides an important framework for implementing the horizontal principles of equality, human rights, rights of persons with disability and non-discrimination. The assessment of equality and human rights issues required under the Duty provides a key framework to assist in ensuring initiatives include the appropriate actions and processes necessary to fully respect the horizontal principles of equality, human rights, rights of persons with disability and non-discrimination.

²⁵ Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union - <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:12012P/TXT>

²⁶ United Nations Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disability - <https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/convention-on-the-rights-of-persons-with-disabilities/convention-on-the-rights-of-persons-with-disabilities-2.html>

²⁷ As defined in Article 9 of the Common Provisions Regulation. https://commission.europa.eu/funding-tenders/find-funding/funding-management-mode/common-provisions-regulation_en

²⁸ Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission – Implementing the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty https://www.ihrec.ie/app/uploads/2022/08/IHREC_Public_Sector_Duty_Final_Eng_WEB.pdf

²⁹ Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission Act 2014 - https://www.ihrec.ie/app/uploads/2022/08/ihrec_act_2014.pdf



4.7 ALLOCATION OF SCHEME FUNDING

The total funding available for THRIVE under the Northern and Western Regional Programme is €30.5 million. The Northern and Western Region has been designated as a 'Region in Transition'. The ERDF co-funding rate is 60% with the balance of 40% co-funded by the Government of Ireland.

Applications for funding should include a project budget over the period from 2025 to 2028 for Strand 2.

The Evaluation Panel will recommend the amount of funding to be awarded to successful applications. Funding will be dispersed on a phased basis, and the release of funding after year 1 for Strand 2 projects will be subject to demonstrated progress on the implementation of the project, as captured via quarterly updates provided to the Managing Authority.

Funding may be paused, removed, or redistributed by the Managing Authority if:

- (a) Progress is unsatisfactory.
- (b) Funds have not been used for the approved activities.
- (c) Reporting and monitoring requirements are not adhered to.
- (d) The project contravenes the standards and terms and conditions of THRIVE, ERDF, or the European Commission.
- (e) The terms and conditions of the Grant Agreement and/or the scheme call document are not fulfilled.

The information provided on the project budget by the Local Authority may be subject to verification. Double funding is not permitted and local authorities applying for funding under this scheme should take the necessary steps to ensure there will be no double funding in respect of the proposed activities. All funding awarded to local authorities under the scheme will be subject to compliance with State aid rules.

The applicant will be required to confirm that the proposed actions within their application are consistent with the call documents as outlined in this document. Where operations have commenced before the submission of an application for funding to the Managing Authority, the applicant will be required to confirm that all applicable law has been complied with.



4.8 STATE AID

Since the immediate beneficiaries of the funding will be local authorities, it is not envisaged that any State aid issues will arise from award of such funding under Strand 1. However, under Strand 2, State aid may arise in the event that persons or entities constituting “undertakings” for the purposes of the State aid rules are permitted to use or lease a building (or part of a building), following its redevelopment, at a rate which is below commercial, market rates. It will be the responsibility of the Applicant (Local Authority) to identify any such cases where an undertaking would ‘benefit’ from discounted rates and subsequently ensure it complies with State Aid regulation and that the amount is recorded as De Minimis Aid. Accordingly, a State aid checklist is found at Appendix 3.

4.9 PUBLIC PROCUREMENT

Local Authorities must ensure that all public procurement is consistent with National and EU procurement legislation, rules and guidelines. The scheme will promote the strategic use of public procurement, including professionalisation efforts to address capacity gaps, and the use of more quality-related and lifecycle cost criteria³⁰.

Local authorities will be encouraged to incorporate green public procurement, social considerations, SMART practices and innovation incentives into public procurement procedures where feasible.

4.10 ELIGIBLE EXPENDITURE

All funded activities must be directly related to the objectives and outcomes of THRIVE and must comply with the ERDF and National Eligibility Rules for Expenditure 2021-2027. In particular, local authorities are reminded that proof of expenditure is always required, and local authorities must ensure that proposed expenditure can be supported by appropriate documentation to ensure an adequate and proper audit trail. This supporting documentation must be readily available to the Managing Authorities, Accounting Function, Audit Authority, and European Commission auditors. Each application for funding must complete the proposed budget expenditure template in the application form under Appendix 6 and the proposed timeline for delivery Gantt chart in the application form under Appendix 7.

³⁰ Strategic Public Procurement including Sustainable, Green and Social Considerations were published 23/12/2021 by the Office of Government Procurement - <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/f95ee-strategic-public-procurement/> It details that Strategic Public Procurement should incorporate sustainable and green public procurement, social considerations. Circular 20/2019 Promotes the use of environmental and social considerations in public procurement - <https://www.gov.ie/pdf/?file=https://assets.gov.ie/37044/c392250066e440a8bda16e8e58afd60e.pdf#page=null>
[Life Cycle Costs - https://ec.europa.eu/environment/gpp/lcc.htm](https://ec.europa.eu/environment/gpp/lcc.htm)



4.11 COMMUNICATION AND VISIBILITY

Effective communication with citizens and stakeholders and high levels of visibility of EU and National Funds are both critical elements in the successful delivery of THRIVE projects. This is a flagship scheme within the Regional Programme and supported projects will be doing important work across a range of themes including but not limited to sustainable urban development, citizen engagement, Town Centre First, adaptive reuse of heritage buildings, and the New European Bauhaus.

As such, the projects will attract the interest and scrutiny of national and international stakeholders, including the European Commission and other Member States. Local authorities funded under the scheme should expect visits to these projects from representatives of the European Commission, and of Managing Authorities and Municipalities from other Member States. This will be an opportunity for local authorities to highlight the excellent work that is undertaken at a local level and to raise the profile of both the project, the town, and the Local Authority.

Successful applicants are expected to go beyond basic compliance and to invest significant effort and resources into communicating the work and the outcome of the supported strategies and capital projects. This is reflected in the evaluation criteria which includes a requirement to *“Demonstrate how the project will ensure visibility of this co-funded investment in terms of impact for citizens and transformative improvements”*.

Successful applicants will be supplied with a guidance document outlining minimum mandatory requirements and guidance for additional communications activities. Some of the key requirements for the scheme include:

- Recipients of funding must use the programme logo and funding statement on all physical and online communications elements.
- Temporary signage highlighting ERDF support must be erected by the Local Authority on commencement of the project implementation for Strand 2 funding and be visible to the public.
- A permanent plaque highlighting ERDF support must be erected by the Local Authority on completion of the project for Strand 2 funding. The design and placement of the permanent plaque must be agreed with the Managing Authority. It must be displayed prominently and must be visible not alone to users of the building but to the wider public.
- A dedicated webpage must be created on the Local Authority’s main website to highlight the ERDF co-funded project.



- Social media posts of the activities must include the hashtag #euinmyregion.
- Recipients of funding must ensure the support of the Government of Ireland, the European Union and the Managing Authority are acknowledged in all advertisements, press releases and other promotional materials related to the scheme activities.

During the funding period, recipients of funding may be asked to participate in events and site visits, as well as the publication of case studies or beneficiary stories to highlight the successes and benefits of ERDF co-funding.

A list of project recipients of funding under the ERDF Programme 2021-27 will be published on the Managing Authority's website and on the European Commission's Europe-wide EU funds beneficiary search platform, Kohesio.

Non-compliance with Communications Requirements can result in a loss of up to 3% of ERDF financial support.

Applicants will be required to confirm that they will comply with the publicity, communications and visibility requirements as set out in the Northern and Western Regional Programme 2021-2027 Grant Agreement.

4.12 DATA SOURCES / FUNDING OVERSIGHT

The Local Authority will maintain data on the grant awards and any associated contracts entered into by the Local Authority will be reported to the Managing Authority. Local Authorities shall retain and be open for inspection of all relevant data in relation to approved projects under THRIVE. Each Local Authority shall have anti-fraud policies, procedures for dealing with protected disclosures and fraud reporting procedures. All procurement and project selection procedures shall be designed to address any potential conflict of interest. Reliance will be placed on the normal budgetary processes for Local Authority funding, and the grant agreements with the local authorities will require adherence to the regulatory requirements.

4.13 DATA PROTECTION & PRIVACY NOTICE & DOCUMENT RETENTION

The information gathered will solely be used for the purposes of the Northern and Western Regional Programme 2021-2027 – Town Centre First Heritage Revival Fund (THRIVE). For full details of the Northern and Western Regional Assembly's privacy notice, please see the



following link: [Regulations, Guidelines & Legal Notices - Northern & Western Regional Assembly](#)

Persons identified within the application should be made aware of this privacy notice.

In accordance with Article 82 of EU Regulation (EU) 2021/1060, without prejudice to the rules governing State aid, the Local Authority, shall ensure that all supporting documents related to any operation supported under THRIVE are kept at the appropriate level for a **5-year period** from 31st December of the year in which the last payment by the Managing Authority to the Local Authority is made. The Managing Authority will verify compliance with the document retention requirements during the management verifications required by Article 74 of EU Regulation (EU) 2021/1060.

4.14 CAPACITY BUILDING

It will be mandatory that all successful applicants and their project management team attend and participate in capacity building workshops following contract award. The applicant will be required to confirm that if successful, all members of the project management team will attend and participate in these workshops. The Managing Authority will arrange a series of workshops for local authorities which may include, but is not limited to workshops on horizontal principles of equality, human rights, rights of persons with disability and non-discrimination, communication regulations, Do No Significant Harm, New European Bauhaus, public procurement, conservation principles, EPPM and payment claims etc.



5. APPLICATION AND EVALUATION PROCEDURES

5.1 APPLICATION PROCESS

Local authorities should familiarise themselves with the information and guidance provided in this call document, including relevant hyperlinked documents, before attempting to complete the application form. Information provided in this document and in the application, template should be read carefully to ensure that the Local Authority's proposal is eligible and within scope of THRIVE.

The Managing Authority will run a series of workshops for local authorities to support the preparation of applications for funding for Strand 1 and Strand 2 Call 1 which may include, but is not limited to workshops on horizontal principles of equality, human rights, rights of persons with disability and non-discrimination, communication regulations, Do No Significant Harm, New European Bauhaus, conservation principles, public procurement etc. Recordings of these workshops are available on the Managing Authority website and all local authorities submitting a Strand 2 Call 2 should review these along with the frequently asked questions document in advance of completing their application.

Please note that information provided in the application form may be subject to verification. All proposals must be endorsed by the Chief Executive. Electronic signatures (DocuSign/Adobe sign) may be used for this purpose. **Application forms Strand 2 can be obtained by emailing thrive@nwra.ie**

Prior to evaluating applications, the Managing Authority will undertake a meeting with the Local Authority and a site visit to seek any clarifications on the project that may be required. In addition, the Managing Authority will appoint an independent Quantity Surveyor to undertake a site visit and to review the budgeted costs submitted and report their findings to the Managing Authority.

Prior to signing a Grant Agreement and the dispersal of funding, successful local authorities may be required to meet a number of conditions, including, but not limited to, the receipt of satisfactory reports on previous projects, submission of all documents referenced in the application form, and/or a revised budget and project plan. As such, any grant offer should be considered provisional until the Managing Authority confirms that the relevant conditions have been met.

In submitting a proposal, local authorities will be deemed to have accepted the conditions outlined in this call and to have agreed to be bound by them. Acceptance of an award by a



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Local Authority will be in accordance with this call and any conditions as set out in a letter of offer and/or grant agreement. Questions regarding the application process will be managed through an FAQ process which will be regularly updated through the programme period.

Further Information and Queries please email: thrive@nwra.ie

Deadline for receipt of completed applications: 12 noon on Friday 30th May 2025

Applications will not be assessed if late, incomplete or ineligible.

Application / File link is required to be sent to thrive@nwra.ie in advance of the closing time Friday 30th May 2025

Applicants will receive a receipt of acknowledgement that the application has been received.

Local Authorities are expected to be informed of the outcome of the selection process in writing within 3 months of submission with projects required to commence in 2025.

Local authorities shall process personal data as required under THRIVE in compliance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018. Information held by the local authorities and Managing Authority on THRIVE will be subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2014 (FOI Act). Policies and procedures on access to information is set out in the following link: [Regulations, Guidelines & Legal Notices - Northern & Western Regional Assembly](#)

[Local Authorities](#) should be aware that application documentation will be made available to other ERDF programme authorities and their agents, including Managing Authorities, Accounting Function, Audit Authority, and European Commission auditors, in order to meet obligation under the Common Provisions Regulation.



5.2 ASSESSMENT OF APPLICATIONS

An evaluation panel will be formed to oversee project selection and funding awards comprising members of the Steering Committee referenced in Section 4.4 and an independent chairperson to be nominated by agreement of the Managing Authority and the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. Members of the Steering Committee and evaluation panel will be required to confirm they do not have a conflict of interest.

5.2.1 PRE-EVALUATION SCREENING

It is envisaged that applications will have significant supporting and reference documentation. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that such documents are clearly referenced and appended. Clear denotation of the reference material will assist the Evaluation panel to navigate through the appended files.

Where there is a technical issue regarding file transfer (due to transmission limitation etc.), a test facility can be requested from the THRIVE team in advance of the application deadline. Where a link is provided, it is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that the link is fully operational and contains each document referenced in advance of the application deadline.

It is recommended that all sections of the application form are completed. Where the application form is not fully completed; this may render the application invalid.

The Managing Authority will review each application using the pre-evaluations criteria to ensure each application is eligible as set out in the table below. Only applications where each eligibility criteria is evaluated as Yes or N/A will be progressed to the next stage.



Table 1: Eligibility Screening Pre-Evaluation Criteria

Criteria	Yes/ No/NA
a. the Strand 2 applicant is eligible for funding and the application is in respect a Designated Settlement as outlined in Appendix 1.	
b. the Strand 2 applicant is eligible for funding and has selected one project from a list of potential projects that have been identified in an integrated urban strategy by the relevant Local Authority, that is in a Designated Settlement as outlined in Appendix 1.	
c. All areas of the application are completed, and all supporting documents are included.	
d. the applicant has confirmed they have effective mechanisms in place to ensure that all public procurement is consistent with National ³¹ and EU procurement legislation.	
e. the applicant has confirmed that any State aid would be lawful, and the applicant is eligible to receive grant aid at the requested level within the State aid rules, if applicable and State Aid Checklist in Appendix 3 has been completed.	
f. the applicant has confirmed that any aid granted through the project to third parties is permissible under, and would be managed in accordance with, State aid rules.	
g. the applicant has taken steps to prevent any discrimination based on gender, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation during the preparation, implementation, monitoring, reporting and evaluation of the project and in particular, accessibility for persons with disabilities.	
h. the applicant has effective mechanisms in place to ensure compliance with the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union ³² and with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability (UNDRPD) ³³ .	

³¹ The Office of Government Procurement – The National Public Procurement Policy Framework - <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/39a1b-the-national-public-procurement-policy-framework/>

³² Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union - <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:12012P/TXT>

³³ United Nations Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disability - <https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/convention-on-the-rights-of-persons-with-disabilities/convention-on-the-rights-of-persons-with-disabilities-2.html>



Criteria	Yes/ No/NA
i. the applicant has the necessary financial resources and mechanisms in place to cover operational and maintenance costs for operations comprising investment in infrastructure or productive investment, so as to ensure their financial sustainability (Strand 2 only).	
j. the proposed activities fall within the scope of the ERDF and the specific intervention types (169) Territorial development initiatives, including preparation of territorial strategies or (166) Protection, development and promotion of cultural heritage and cultural services.	
k. the intervention does not include activities which were part of an operation subject to relocation in accordance with Article 66 or which would constitute a transfer of a productive activity in accordance with point (a) of Article 65(1) of the CPR (Strand 2 only).	
l. the intervention is not directly affected by a reasoned opinion by the Commission in respect of an infringement under Article 258 TFEU ³⁴ that puts at risk the legality and regularity of expenditure or the performance of operations.	
m. confirmation from the applicant that projects that fall under the scope of Directive 2011/92 ³⁵ (EU) of the European Parliament and of the Council have completed an environmental impact assessment or a screening procedure and that this assessment has considered an assessment of alternative solutions on the basis of the requirements of this Directive. (If Yes, then copy of this environmental impact assessment or screening procedure undertaken is included with the application for funding)	
n. completion by the applicant of the environmental checklist(s) in the call documentation, with supporting documents where relevant. This will include a climate proofing assessment (Strand 2 only) and commitments in respect of DNSH.	

The Managing Authority will prepare a report summarising the results of pre-evaluation screening, which will outline the reasons for any ineligible applications and present the details of all eligible applications for review by the evaluation panel.

³⁴ Treaty of European Union and the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union - <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=OJ:C:2008:115:FULL&from=EN>

³⁵ Directive 2011/92/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 December 2011 on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment - <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2012:026:0001:0021:EN:PDF>



5.2.2 EVALUATION STAGE

Meetings of the evaluation panel will be in person or online at the discretion of the Chair. For each application, the project is discussed, and a consensus score is agreed in accordance with the evaluation criteria set out in Table 3 below.

The Chair of the evaluation panel will prepare a Final Assessment Sheet to include a ranked list of projects by project score and funding recommendations and, if applicable, any conditions for each project to be funded.

The Managing Authority will review the Assessment Sheet for accuracy and compliance with the application of the selection criteria and EU and national expenditure rules and will notify the Director of the Northern and Western Regional Assembly of the projects to be awarded funding. Letters of offer will be issued by the Director of the Northern and Western Regional Assembly.

Table 2: Assessment Criteria

Assessment Criteria	Strand 2 – capital investment in projects that support the adaptive reuse of built heritage and urban regeneration in town centres
<p>STRATEGIC (20%) Compatibility with EU, National and Regional policies – Integrated Sustainable Urban Development, Compact Growth and Town Centre First</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate how the project will complement the delivery of Town Centre First by supporting town centres that function as viable vibrant and attractive places for people to live, work and visit. • Demonstrate how the project is aligned with the compact growth and balanced regional development objectives of the NPF and is supported by policy objectives in the RSES/CDP/LAP/integrated urban strategy.
<p>RELEVANT (20%) Achieve programme objectives in addressing vacancy and dereliction and supporting adaptive re-use of built heritage in town centres and balanced regional growth</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate how the project transforms a vacant or derelict building/s leading to a sustainable long-term use and potential to drive significant town centre regeneration. • Demonstrates balanced regional growth in the programme area.



Assessment Criteria	Strand 2 – capital investment in projects that support the adaptive reuse of built heritage and urban regeneration in town centres
<p>IMPACT (30%) Compatibility with New European Bauhaus (NEB) values and principles in being transformative and encouraging a cultural shift to sustainable place-based living</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project demonstrates innovative and transformative impact in terms of regeneration, preservation and circularity of cultural heritage stock, inclusivity, affordability, accessibility, and quality of design. • Include a multi-disciplinary integrated and participatory approach (involvement of citizens and stakeholders) and community participation in design and implementation of the project. • Embed NEB Values, principles & innovation, sustainability, lifecycle thinking & quality of design. • Place-based and sensitive to the cultural context and attractiveness of the built environment. • Outline positive interventions to ensure climate proofing and the principle of DNSH in project design and implementation. <p>Demonstrate how the project will ensure visibility of this co-funded investment in terms of impact for citizens and transformative improvements.³⁶</p>
<p>DELIVERY (30%) Local Authorities' capacity, commitment & resources³⁷ to deliver including project management, timelines and budget verses scale of activities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Projects should be at a sufficient stage of readiness for capital investment. • Appropriateness of proposed timeframe, resources and budget versus scale of activities to complete project. • Commitment of senior management to the project and appropriate project management and governance structures. • Identified project team with clearly assigned roles and capacity to realise high-quality conservation outcomes

Each criterion will be assessed using the scoring scale set out in Table 3: Scoring Matrix.

³⁶ Co-funded by the Government of Ireland and the European Union

³⁷ It is expected that the Local Authority will provide a commitment and resources to directly support the Integrated Urban Strategy or Integrated Urban Project to be undertaken. The commitment, resources and support from the Local Authority will be assessed by the Evaluation Panel as part of their evaluation and may include but is not limited to:

- The number of dedicated staff appointed to the delivery of the Integrated Urban Strategy or Integrated Urban Project;
- dedicated space and office equipment for use by the staff dedicated to the development of the Integrated Urban Strategy or Integrated Urban project;
- access to and the involvement of multi-disciplinary experts to support the staff developing the Integrated Urban Strategy or Integrated Urban Project; and
- involvement and commitment of senior management to the delivery of the Integrated Urban Strategy or Integrated Urban Project.



Table 3: Scoring Matrix

Scoring Matrix	Descriptor	
0-20	Poor	The criterion is inadequately addressed or there are serious inherent weaknesses.
21-40	Fair	The proposal addresses the criterion, but significant weaknesses are present.
41-60	Good	The proposal addresses the criterion well, but a number of shortcomings are present.
61-80	Very Good	The proposal addresses the criterion very well, but a small number of shortcomings are present.
81-100	Excellent	The proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion. Any shortcomings are minor.

The evaluation panel will review all applications and will assign a consensus score for each project. The score under each assessment criteria will be multiplied by the weighting of that specific assessment criteria. The final score will be the total consensus score of the evaluation panel.

A combined threshold score of 70% with a minimum score of 60 under each criterion is required for an application to be considered for funding.

The Chair of the evaluation panel will prepare a Final Assessment Sheet for the Managing Authority to include a list of fundable proposals ranked in order of priority based on the overall score of each proposal, and one of the following funding recommendations for each project, taking into account the total funding available under the call:

- Recommended for funding as presented
- Recommended for funding subject to a set of specified conditions / clarifications / amendments / revision of budget
- Not Recommended for funding

All applicants will receive written confirmation from the Managing Authority of the outcome of the selection process for their application. Funding will be disbursed on a phased basis, based on progress achieved against objectives set out in the Grant Agreement. Funding may be paused, removed, or redistributed by the Managing Authority if the terms of the Grant Agreement are not fulfilled or where there is insufficient progress on projects in accordance with project monitoring and reporting guidelines and requirements.



5.2.3 APPEALS

Applicants will be given an opportunity to appeal the outcome of the evaluation process, within 1 month of the date of the written confirmation from the Managing Authority of the outcome of the selection process, where they are dissatisfied with a grant award decision, setting out the basis for their request for reconsideration of the decision. An Appeals Board comprising the Chair of the Steering Committee and two other individuals will review all appeals. The Appeals Board may, in such instances, seek an independent review of the application to support their work.

5.3 GRANT AGREEMENTS

All Local Authorities receiving funding under THRIVE will be required to return a Grant Agreement signed by the Chief Executive, accepting the funds awarded and terms and conditions set out in that agreement, as well as the call document and the project proposal.

5.4 POST AWARD MONITORING, REPORTING AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

THRIVE will be administered directly by the Managing Authority with funding made available through competitive calls. A dedicated resource within the Local Authority will be responsible for the compilation of data and reporting of expenditure, as well as progress against specific indicators via a dedicated IT system, ePPM. Robust, evidence-based monitoring and evaluation arrangements will be established to ensure that the grant is achieving its intended strategic objectives as efficiently and effectively as possible.

Reporting will occur on a bi-annual basis and involve analysis of approved project workplans and budgets against interim and annual reports that detail progress. These reports will be comprised of narrative, work packages, and budget reports on progress.

Reports will include overviews of project progress, analysis of results, lessons learned and governance and organisational updates. Additionally, progress meetings will be held with local authorities on a quarterly basis for all approved Strand 2 applications. Local authorities



may also be subject to field monitoring visits by representatives of the Managing Authority or external consultants contracted to assist with monitoring and verifying financial expenditure, progress, and results.

Monitoring and Reporting guidelines will make clear that funded local authorities are expected to ensure that specific project expenditure is clearly identifiable and verifiable in accounting systems. This will include obligations to systematically record and monitor all project-related transactions against the approved project budget.

Payments will be made to local authorities on the basis of declared expenditure and suitable progress as set out in the grant agreement. Payment claims will be submitted via the dedicated IT system, PPM. Upon receipt of the payment claims from the Local Authority, the Managing Authority will carry out management verifications in accordance with the requirements of Article 74 of Regulation 2021/1060. These verifications will verify that the co-financed products and services have been delivered, that the operation complies with applicable law, the programme, and the conditions for support of the operation. The management verifications shall be risk-based and proportionate to the risks identified ex ante and in writing. Management verifications shall include administrative verifications in respect of payment claims made by beneficiaries and on-the-spot verifications of operations. A Sampling methodology will be agreed by the Managing Authority in advance.

Grants in respect of projects approved under THRIVE will be paid to the Local Authority in arrears, on the basis of certified returns of expenditure. Claims, once approved and certified, in respect of grant assistance (ERDF plus National Contribution) will be submitted to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage for release of payments to the Local Authority.

The Managing Authority is committed to ensuring value for money and accountability in all its grants. Funding may be paused, removed or redistributed at the discretion of the Managing Authority, if the terms of the Grant Agreement are not fulfilled or where there is insufficient progress on the project in accordance with monitoring and reporting guidelines and requirements.



APPENDIX 1 - DESIGNATED SETTLEMENTS AND ELIGIBLE LOCAL AUTHORITIES

Local Authority	Designated Settlement*	RSES Designation	Region
Comhairle Contae an Chabháin | Cavan County Council	Cavan	Key Town	Northern and Western Region
Comhairle Contae Dhún na nGall | Donegal County Council	Letterkenny	Regional Growth Centre	Northern and Western Region
Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe | Galway County Council	Ballinasloe Tuam	Key Town Key Town	Northern and Western Region
Comhairle Chontae Liatroma | Leitrim County Council	Carrick On Shannon	Key Town	Northern and Western Region
Comhairle Contae Mhaigh Eo | Mayo County Council	Ballina Castlebar	Key Town Key Town	Northern and Western Region
Chomhairle Contae Mhuineacháin | Monaghan County Council	Monaghan	Key Town	Northern and Western Region
Comhairle Contae Ros Comáin | Roscommon	Roscommon	Key Town	Northern and Western Region
Comhairle Chontae Shligigh | Sligo C County Council	Sligo	Regional Growth Centre	Northern and Western Region
Ineligible Local Authorities – Local Authorities who have already been awarded Call 1 funding are ineligible under Call 2			
Comhairle Cathrach na Gaillimhe | Galway City Council	Galway City & Suburbs	Metropolitan Area	Northern and Western Region

** This refers to existing built-up area of urban settlements of all sizes as defined by the Central Statistics Office (CSO) and designated in the National Planning Framework and Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Northern and Western Region.*



APPENDIX 2 - NEW EUROPEAN BAUHAUS (NEB)

Strand 1 and Strand 2 applications are assessed on their compatibility with New European Bauhaus (NEB) values and principles in being transformative and encouraging a cultural shift to sustainable place-based living. A summary of these values and principles is given below together with signposting to additional resources.

NEB Sustainability Value – demonstrate the use of innovative material and/or nature-based solutions and the promotion of products with clear environmental performance, circular economy benefits or that give a feeling or experience of being part of nature, deploys energy use reduction measures and uses reused, recycled and recyclable components or recovered and renewable materials in the reuse of existing buildings that reinvigorate and revitalise urban centres.

NEB Aesthetics (Beautiful) Value – demonstrates the quality of the experience and style and goes beyond functionality, providing visual comfort, stimulates or creates certain emotions or sensorial experiences through design and adapts to the specific local context as well as the current socio-cultural needs and/or connects aesthetics to the cultural heritage of a place.

NEB Inclusion Value – demonstrate that the project is inclusive in its design, implementation and results through the use of participation and co-creation processes at each stage with the relevant target group, citizens, social and economic stakeholders and vulnerable groups, ensuring diversity, equality for all, accessibility and affordability and resulting in a sense of belonging, local distinctiveness or intergenerational exchanges and creating a sense of pride that celebrates diversity.

The NEB principles require a multi-level, participatory and transdisciplinary approach that demonstrates a place-based local approach that reconnects with nature, regains a sense of belonging, prioritising the places and people that need it most and fosters long term, life cycle and integrated thinking in all projects.

Additional Resources

New European Bauhaus Commission Website

https://new-european-bauhaus.europa.eu/index_en

New European Bauhaus Toolkit

<https://new-european-bauhaus.europa.eu/system/files/2024-01/NEB%20toolbox.pdf>



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



Arna chomhchistiú ag
an Aontas Eorpach
Co-funded by the
European Union



Tionól Réigiúnach
an Tuaiscirt & an Iarthair
Northern & Western
Regional Assembly

New European Bauhaus Compass

https://new-european-bauhaus.europa.eu/get-involved/use-compass_en

EIB Small Projects Self- Assessment Tool

https://new-european-bauhaus.europa.eu/tools-and-resources/neb-self-assessment-method-coming-soon_en

GXN within the framework for Desire (New European Bauhaus) December 2023 – Toolkit for co-design with young people -

[https://grafisk.3xn.dk/files/permanent/Think it Sketch it Show it Co-Design Toolkit GXN.pdf](https://grafisk.3xn.dk/files/permanent/Think_it_Sketch_it_Show_it_Co-Design_Toolkit_GXN.pdf)

Guide for Inclusive Community Engagement in Local Planning and Decision Making, Department of Rural and Community Development and Pobal, February 2023.

https://www.pobal.ie/app/uploads/2023/01/Pobal_23_CE_Guide-final-31.1.23.pdf

Places for People - the National Architecture Policy, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, May 2022

<https://www.gov.ie/ga/preasraitis/577e6-irelands-new-national-policy-on-architecture-showcased-in-new-european-bauhaus-festival/>



APPENDIX 3 – STATE AID CHECKLIST – STRAND 2 ONLY

Local Authority Chief Executive/Director of Service Confirmation	Yes/No
<p>I confirm that a mechanism (e.g. the appointment of a suitably qualified valuer with knowledge of the local market) has been put in place whereby it can be identified whether any use of the building (or part of the building), following its redevelopment, by persons or entities constituting “undertakings” for the purposes of the State aid rules is done at commercial, market rates.</p>	
<p>I confirm that, in the event that the rate to be paid by any such undertaking for use of the building (or part of the building) (the “Building Use”), following its redevelopment, is less than the applicable commercial, market rate, the agreement to be concluded with that undertaking in respect of the Building Use will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="236 1115 1091 1189">I. identify the difference between rate paid and the applicable commercial, market rate (i.e. the “Benefit”); and <li data-bbox="236 1261 1182 1570">II. provide for the making of a declaration by the undertaking that the receipt by it of the Benefit over the course of its anticipated Building Use will not be such that (pursuant to Article 3(2) of Commission Regulation No 1407/2013 on the application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union to de minimis aid) at any stage the total de minimis aid received by the undertaking (from any and all sources in the State) will exceed €300,000 over any three-year period; and <li data-bbox="236 1637 1177 1749">III. the €300,000 figure in (ii) above will be reduced to €100,000 in the case of a undertaking which is a single undertaking performing road freight transport for hire or reward. 	



APPENDIX 4 – CLIMATE PROOFING ASSESSMENT STRAND 2 PROJECTS ONLY

Strand 2 projects fall within the scope of the ERDF requirements for ‘climate proofing of supported investment in infrastructure’. Article 2 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1058 defines climate proofing as ‘*a process to prevent infrastructure from being vulnerable to potential long-term climate impacts whilst ensuring that the ‘energy efficiency first’ principle is respected and that the level of greenhouse gas emissions arising from the project is consistent with the climate neutrality objective in 2050*’.

In practice, this means that all applications for Strand 2 funding must include a Climate Proofing assessment of the proposed project. The guidance and assessment template below has been developed with reference to the European Commission Technical Guidance on the Climate Proofing of Infrastructure in the period 2021-2027³⁸.

The assessment of Climate Proofing should assess both Climate Neutrality (mitigation of climate change) and Climate Resilience (adaptation to climate change) both of which contain 2 phases. The first phase of each is screening and the outcome determines whether the second phase for each should be carried out.

Climate neutrality - climate change mitigation - Mitigating climate change involves decarbonisation, energy efficiency, energy savings, and deploying renewable forms of energy. It involves taking action to reduce GHG emissions or increase GHG sequestration and is guided by EU policy on emission reduction targets for 2030 and 2050. Phase 1 requires the project to be assessed with regard to the category of infrastructure projects as outlined in Section 3.2.1 Table 2 of the European Commission Technical Guidance on the Climate Proofing of Infrastructure. As all categories of costs outlined in Table 2 that require a carbon footprint assessment (Phase 2) are deemed not eligible for funding under this scheme, it is unlikely for any project to require a carbon footprint assessment except if the scale of the project is anticipated to exceed the absolute and/or relative emissions of 20,000 tonnes CO₂e/year (positive or negative).

Climate resilience - climate change adaptation measures for infrastructure projects centre around ensuring a suitable level of resilience to the impacts of climate change, which includes acute events such as more intense floods, cloudbursts, droughts, heatwaves, wildfires, storms and landslides and hurricanes, as well as chronic events such as projected sea-level rise and changes in average precipitation, soil moisture and air humidity. In addition to factoring in

³⁸ Commission Notice – 2021/C373/01 - Technical Guidance on the Climate Proofing of Infrastructure 2021-2027 published 16/09/2021 [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52021XC0916\(03\)](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52021XC0916(03))



the climate resilience of the project, there must be measures to ensure that the project does not increase the vulnerability of neighbouring economic and social structures. This could happen, for instance, if a project includes an embankment that could increase flood risk in the vicinity. Phase 1 requires a sensitivity analysis, exposure analysis and vulnerability analysis to be undertaken.

The aim of the sensitivity analysis is to identify which climate hazards are relevant to the specific type of project, irrespective of its location. For example, sea-level rise is likely to be a significant hazard for most seaport projects, irrespective of their location. The aim of the exposure analysis is to identify which hazards are relevant to the planned project location, irrespective of the project type. For example, flooding could be a significant climate hazard for a location next to a river in a floodplain. The vulnerability analysis combines the outcome of the analysis of sensitivity and the analysis of exposure (when separately assessed).

If the vulnerability assessment concludes that all vulnerabilities are ranked as low or insignificant in a justified manner, no further (climate) risk assessment might be needed (this concludes the screening and Phase 1). If, however, the vulnerability assessment concludes that some vulnerabilities are ranked at high or medium risk then a Phase 2 Climate resilience – climate change adaptation detailed analysis will be required. Please refer to section 3.3.2 of the Commission Technical Guidance for details of the requirements and how to undertake the Phase 2 Climate resilience – climate change adaptation detailed analysis.

All applications for funding under Strand 2 will be required to complete a Climate Proofing assessment. The Managing Authorities will support local authorities by providing relevant workshops to support this activity.

To note the National Built Heritage Service of the DHLGH have produced a [Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plan for Built & Archaeological Heritage](#)³⁹, an advice series including public guidance on [Energy Efficiency in Traditional Buildings](#)⁴⁰, technical guidance on Improving Energy Efficiency in Traditional Buildings⁴¹ and other climate related [resources](#)⁴² which may be of assistance to applicants.

³⁹ [Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plan for Built & Archaeological Heritage](https://www.gov.ie/pdf/?file=https://assets.gov.ie/246863/2660361a-6b77-4b58-b040-aea8fd960606.pdf#page=null) -
<https://www.gov.ie/pdf/?file=https://assets.gov.ie/246863/2660361a-6b77-4b58-b040-aea8fd960606.pdf#page=null>

⁴⁰ Energy efficiency in Traditional Buildings - <https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/app/uploads/2019/10/Energy-Efficiency-in-Traditional-Buildings-2010.pdf>

⁴¹ Improving Energy Efficiency in Traditional Buildings – Guidance for Specifiers and Installers -
<https://www.gov.ie/pdf/?file=https://assets.gov.ie/279129/adb2c10d-86d7-4632-8368-65faba79ad22.pdf#page=null>

⁴² Technical Guidance on Improving Energy efficiency in Traditional Buildings and other climate related resources -
<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/c2038-built-and-archaeological-heritage-climate-action/>



Phase 1. (A) Assessment of Climate Proofing of Infrastructure Projects		
Climate Neutrality Mitigation of Climate Change		
<u>Screening – Phase 1 (Mitigation)</u>		
Screening	Yes/No	Climate Neutrality Screening Statement
<p>Does the project require a carbon footprint assessment?</p> <p>If No, then please summarise the analysis in a climate neutrality screening statement in the box to the right, which gives a conclusion on climate proofing as regards to climate neutrality.⁴³</p> <p>If Yes, then proceed to Detailed Analysis – Phase 2 (Mitigation) Below.⁴⁴</p>		

⁴³ Commission Notice – 2021/C/373/01 – Technical Guidance on the Climate Proofing of Infrastructure 2021 - Table 2 - https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=OJ%3AC%3A2021%3A373%3AFULL#ntc66-C_2021373EN.01000101-E0066 advises that subject to the scale of the project (scale of project should not be for which the absolute and/or relative emissions could exceed 20,000 tonnes CO₂e/year (positive or negative)), a carbon footprint assessment will not be required for the following categories of infrastructure projects – telecommunications services, drinking water supply networks, rainwater and wastewater collection networks, small-scale industrial waste water treatment and municipal waste water treatment, property developments, mechanical/biological waste treatment plants, R&D activities, Pharmaceuticals and biotechnology.

⁴⁴ As the categories of infrastructure projects outlined in Table 2 of the Technical Guidance on the Climate Proofing of Infrastructure that require a carbon footprint assessment are not eligible for funding under this scheme, there should be no requirement to undertake a carbon footprint assessment except depending on the scale of the project, to ensure the scale of the project does not exceed the absolute and/or relative emissions of 20,000 tonnes CO₂e/year (positive or negative)). If this is required, please refer to section 3.2.2 of the Commission Technical Guidance for details of the requirements and how to undertake the Phase 2 Climate neutrality – mitigation of climate change detailed analysis.



Phase 1. (B) Assessment of Climate Proofing of Infrastructure Projects

**Climate Resilience
Adaptation to Climate Change**

Screening – Phase 1 (Adaptation)

Screening	Yes/No	Climate Resilience Screening Statement based on Climate Adaptation Analysis below
<p>Undertake a climate sensitivity and vulnerability analysis in line with the technical guidance and complete table below.</p> <p>Is there significant climate risks warranting further analysis?</p> <p>If no, there are no significant climate risks warranting further analysis (analysis shows all variable consider Low), compile the documentation and summarise the analysis in a climate resilience screening statement, which in principle gives a conclusion on climate proofing as regards climate resilience.</p>		



If Yes, there are significant climate risks warranting further analysis, then proceed to Detailed Analysis – Phase 2 (Adaptation) ⁴⁵		
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Climate Adaptation Analysis

Sensitivity Table		Climate Variable ⁴⁶ and Hazards ⁴⁷ (CVH)			
		CVH1	CVH2	CVH3	CVH4
Themes⁴⁸	Theme 1	High/Med/low	High/Med/low	High/Med/low	High/Med/low
	Theme 2	High/Med/low	High/Med/low	High/Med/low	High/Med/low
	Theme 3	High/Med/low	High/Med/low	High/Med/low	High/Med/low
	Theme 4	High/Med/low	High/Med/low	High/Med/low	High/Med/low
	Highest Score for all Themes	High/Med/low	High/Med/low	High/Med/low	High/Med/low

Justification for choice of Climate Variable, Hazards (CVH) and Themes and relative scores for the project type, irrespective of the location, including critical parameters and divisions in e.g., the number of themes (for further explanations please see pages 31-34 of the *EU Technical Guidance on the Climate Proofing of Infrastructure in the period 2021-2027*).

⁴⁵ Please refer to section 3.3.2 of the Commission Technical Guidance for details of the requirements and how to undertake the Phase 2 Climate resilience – climate change adaptation detailed analysis.

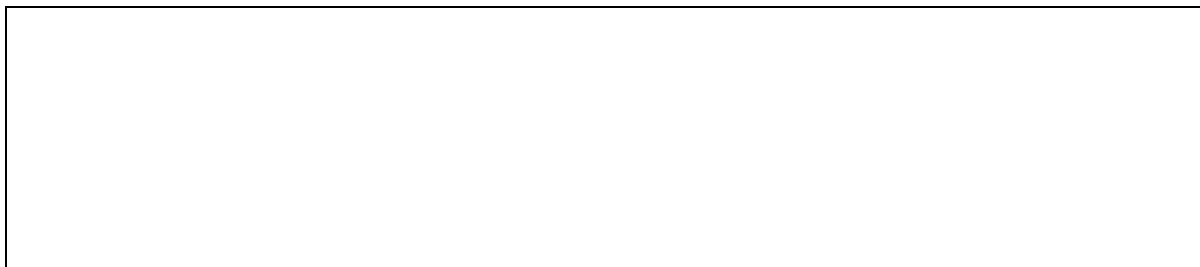
⁴⁶ Climate Variables are defined as resilience to the impacts of climate change (e.g., temperature, precipitation and wind) which includes acute events such as more intense floods, cloudbursts, droughts, heatwaves, wildfires, storms and landslides and hurricanes, as well as chronic events such as projected sea-level rise and changes in average precipitation, soil moisture and air humidity.

⁴⁷ Climate Hazards are defined the potential occurrence of a natural or human-induced physical event or trend that may cause loss of life, injury, or other health impacts, as well as damage and loss to property, infrastructure, livelihoods, service provision, ecosystems and environmental resources.

⁴⁸ Themes are defined as on-site assets and processes, inputs such as water and energy, outputs such as products and services and access and transport links even if outside the direct control of the project.



Climate Adaptation Analysis				
Exposure Analysis	Climate Variable and Hazards (CVH)			
	CVH1	CVH2	CVH3	CVH4
Current Climate	High/Med/low	High/Med/low	High/Med/low	High/Med/low
Future Climate	High/Med/low	High/Med/low	High/Med/low	High/Med/low
Highest Score, Current + Future Climate	High/Med/low	High/Med/low	High/Med/low	High/Med/low
Justification for exposure scores of high/Med/Low for both Current Climate and Future Climate for each of the of the Climate Variables and Hazards for the selected location and irrespective of the project type.				
Climate Adaption Analysis				
Vulnerable Analysis		Exposure (Current + Future Climate)		
		High	Medium	Low
Sensitivity (Highest across all themes for each CVH)	High			
	Medium			
	Low			
First insert the highest score for each CVH from the sensitivity analysis and exposure analysis above, taking the highest score from each. Any climate variable or hazard that scores High or Medium in the Climate Adaption Vulnerability Analysis indicate that a Phase 2 assessment must be undertaken.				



Example

Climate Adaptation Analysis					
Sensitivity Table		Climate Variable and Hazards (CVH)			
Themes		Flood	Heat	....	Drought
	Onsite Assets	High	Low	....	Low
	Inputs (water etc)	Med	Med	....	Low
	Outputs (Products etc)	High	low	....	Low
	Transport Links	Med	low	....	Low
	Highest Score for all Themes	High	Med	....	Low
Justification for choice of Climate Variable, Hazards and Themes and relative scores for the project type, irrespective of the location, including critical parameters and divisions in e.g., the number of themes (for further explanations please see pages 31-34 of the <i>EU Technical Guidance on the Climate Proofing of Infrastructure in the period 2021-2027</i>).					

Climate Adaptation Analysis				
Exposure Analysis	Climate Variable and Hazards (CVH)			
	Flood	Heat	....	Drought
Current Climate	Med	Low	....	Low
Future Climate	High	Med	....	Low
Highest Score, Current + Future Climate	High	Med	....	Low



Justification for exposure scores of high/Med/Low for both Current Climate and Future Climate for each of the of the Climate Variables and Hazards for the selected location and irrespective of the project type.

Climate Adaption Analysis

Vulnerability Analysis		Exposure (Current + Future Climate)		
		High	Medium	Low
Sensitivity (Highest across all themes for each CVH)	High	Flood		
	Medium		Heat	
	Low			Drought

First insert the highest score for each CVH from the sensitivity analysis and exposure analysis above, taking the highest score from each. Any climate variable or hazard that scores High or Medium in the Climate Adaption Vulnerability Analysis indicate that a Phase 2 assessment must be undertaken.

* See section 3.3.1 of the European Commission technical guidance for further details.



APPENDIX 5 – DO NO SIGNIFICANT HARM DECLARATION – STRAND 1

DNSH DECLARATION – STRAND 1

We confirm that the prioritisation, design, development and specification of project proposals will respect the principle of Do No Significant Harm, i.e., that investment in this project should do no significant harm to the environmental objectives as outlined in Articles 9 and 17 of Regulation (EU) 2020/852 to facilitate sustainable investment. The environmental objectives are (1) climate change mitigation, (2) climate change adaptation, (3) sustainable use and protection of water and marine resources, (4) the transition to a circular economy, (5) pollution prevention and control or (6) the protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems.

Environmental Objectives	Examples and suggestions of how Local Authorities could respect the principles of DNSH
Climate Change Mitigation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritise, design, develop and specification of project proposals that take account of the potential of significant GHG emissions increases. • Include where possible climate change mitigation actions to reduce the GHG emissions at the design and specification stage of the project proposals. • Utilise nature-based solutions and/or blue or green infrastructure where possible. • Use technology, products, services, information, or practice to promote the adaption of cultural heritage and assets.
Climate Change Adaption	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritise, design, develop and specification of project proposals will not lead to an increased adverse impact on the current climate and expected climate, on the activity itself or on people, nature and assets. • Ensure that architectural design takes into account, climate proofing guidelines, climate-related hazards modelling and enable the adaption of construction and infrastructure, including building codes and integrated management system where possible. • Implement adaptation solutions that substantially reduce the most important physical climate risks that are material to project where possible.
Sustainable Use and Protection of Water and Marine Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritise, design, develop and specification of project proposals that will not lead to a detrimental impact on the good status or the good ecological potential of bodies of water, including surface water and groundwater or to the good environmental status of marine waters. • Ensuring building designs that will be consistent with local, sectoral, regional, or national adaptation plans and strategies for environmental degradation risks related to preserving water quality and water stress.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where applicable ensure building designs specify details of water fittings or water-using appliances being installed and their compliance with the relevant standards. • Implementation of a Sustainable Urban Drainage System within the project design.
Transition to a Circular Economy include waste prevention and recycling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritise, design, develop and specification of project proposals that will not lead to significant inefficiencies in the use of materials or in the direct or indirect use of natural resources or to significantly increase the generation, incineration or disposal of waste and the long-term disposal of waste which is expected to cause significant or long-term environmental harm. • Ensure that the project is designed so that more than 70% (by weight) of the non-hazardous construction and demolition waste (excluding naturally occurring material referred to in category 17 05 04 in the European List of Waste established by Decision 2000/532/EC⁴⁹) generated on the construction site is prepared for reuse, recycling and other material recovery, including backfilling operations using waste to substitute other materials, in accordance with the waste hierarchy and the EU Construction and Demolition Waste Management Protocol. • Ensure that the specification for the project will include a waste management plan that ensures maximal recycling at end of life of electrical and electronic equipment, including through contractual agreements with recycling partners, reflection in financial projections or official project documentation and at its end of life, the equipment undergoes preparation for reuse, recovery or recycling operations, or proper treatment, including the removal of all fluids and a selective treatment in accordance with Annex VII to Directive 2012/19/EU⁵⁰ of the European Parliament and of the Council.
Pollution Prevention and Control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritise, design, develop and specification of project proposals that will not lead to a significant increase in the emissions of pollutants into air, water or land as compared to the situation before the activity started. • Ensure that the project design will ensure building components and materials will emit less than 0,05 mg of formaldehyde per m³ of material or component upon testing in accordance with the conditions specified in Annex XVII to Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006⁵¹ and less than 0,001 mg of other categories 1A and 1B carcinogenic volatile organic compounds per

⁴⁹ [COMMISSION DECISION of 3 May 2000](#) replacing Decision 94/3/EC establishing a list of wastes pursuant to Article 1(a) of Council Directive 75/442/EEC on waste and Council Decision 94/904/EC establishing a list of hazardous waste pursuant to Article 1(4) of Council Directive 91/689/EEC on hazardous waste

⁵⁰ [Directive \(EU\) 2012/19](#) of the European Parliament and the Council on waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE)

⁵¹ [REGULATION \(EC\) No 1907/2006 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL](#) of 18 December 2006 concerning the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH), establishing a European Chemicals Agency, amending Directive 1999/45/EC and repealing Council Regulation (EEC) No 793/93 and Commission Regulation (EC) No 1488/94 as well as Council Directive 76/769/EEC and Commission Directives 91/155/EEC, 93/67/EEC, 93/105/EC and 2000/21/EC



	<p>m³ of material or component, upon testing in accordance with CEN/EN 16516 or ISO 16000-3 or other equivalent standardised test conditions and determination methods.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that the project design incorporates actions to ensure that noise and vibrations are mitigated by introducing open trenches, wall barriers or other measures and comply with Directive 2002/49/EC⁵². • Ensure in the project design for derelict buildings that are fitted with air-to-air heat pumps, that these have a rated capacity of 12kW or below and indoor and outdoor sound power levels are below the threshold set out in Commission Regulation (EU) 206/2012⁵³.
<p>Protection and Restoration of biodiversity and Ecosystems</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritise, design, develop and specification of project proposals that will not lead to a significant detrimental impact to the good condition and resilience of ecosystems or be detrimental to the conservation status of habitats and species. • Include within the project design, mitigation measures to prevent wildlife collisions with buildings. • Ensure the maintenance of existing vegetation to ensure invasive species do not spread. • When potential properties are being considered for construction, ensure that the local, regional, national and EU policy and legislation will be followed, and positive biodiversity enhancements included within the design.

Signature:

Date

Title:

⁵² DIRECTIVE 2002/49/EC OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 25 June 2002 relating to the assessment and management of environmental noise - <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2002:189:0012:0025:en:PDF#:~:text=The%20aim%20of%20this%20Directive,to%20exposure%20to%20environmental%20noise>.

⁵³ COMMISSION REGULATION (EU) No 206/2012 of 6 March 2012 implementing Directive 2009/125/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council with regard to eco-design requirements for air conditioners and comfort fans - <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2012:072:0007:0027:en:PDF>



APPENDIX 6 – DO NO SIGNIFICANT HARM ASSESSMENT – STRAND 2

TABLE 1 – DNSH TEMPLATE – STRAND 2

Climate Change Mitigation	Yes/No	Describe how the activities will not lead to <u>significant GHG Emissions</u> during the life cycle of the project?	<u>If applicable</u> , provide comment on Positive Contributions/Interventions to Climate Change Mitigation to <u>reduce GHG Emissions?</u>
Are the activities being funded under the scheme expected to lead to significant GHG Emissions during the life cycle?			

If the answer above is “Yes” then please also complete Table 2.

It is expected that applications under this call will propose solutions that will lead to no increase in GHG emissions or will reduce GHG emissions.

By answering “No”, you are providing the following confirmations:

- New buildings or existing buildings developed or refurbished are not dedicated to extraction, storage, transport or manufacture of fossil fuels or downstream use (i.e., related to coal, lignite, oil/petroleum, blue and grey hydrogen, and natural gas, as well as impact on incinerator or landfills).
- That the projected life cycle GHG emissions from the activities funded under the scheme do not undermine GHG mitigation objectives under the Paris Agreement or hinder the deployment of climate mitigation solutions.
- That a Climate Proofing Assessment (see Appendix 4) has been completed that outlines the physical climate risks that are material to the project including a climate risk and vulnerability assessment to assess the materiality of the physical climate risks on the project and an assessment of adaptation solutions that could reduce the identified physical climate risks.
- Works will comply with the criteria set out in Appendix A of the Northern and Western Regional Programme DNSH Assessment for climate change adaption.



- The works do not adversely affect the level of resilience to physical climate risks of other people, of nature, of cultural heritage, of assets and of other economic activities.
- The works are consistent with local, sectoral, regional or national adaptation plans and strategies.

Positive Interventions for new or refurbishment for buildings should target:

- Utilisation of nature-based solutions and/or blue or green infrastructure where possible.
- Introduction of technology, products, services, information, or practice, or promotes their uses in one of the following ways:
 - By increasing the level of resilience to physical climate risks of other people, of nature, of cultural heritage, of assets and of other economic activities.
 - By contributing to adaptation efforts of other people, of nature, of cultural heritage, of assets and of other economic activities.
- The Primary Energy Demand (PED), defining the energy performance of the building resulting from the building works, is at least 10 % lower than the existing PED and is certified using a before and after Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) i.e. a Buildings Energy Rating Certificate (BER).

Climate Change Adaption	Yes/No	Describe how the activities will not lead to <u>significant adverse impact</u> of the <u>current climate and the expected future climate</u> , on the activity itself or on people, nature, or assets?	<u>If applicable</u> , provide comments on Positive Contributions/Interventions to Climate Change Adaption to <u>reduce the impact of the current climate and the expected future climate</u> , on the activity itself or on people, nature, or assets?
Are the activities funded under the scheme expected to lead to an increased adverse impact of the current climate and the expected future climate , on the activity itself or on			



people, nature,
or assets?

If the answer above is “No” please provide a brief justification above, If however, the answer above is “Yes” then please also complete Table 2.

It is expected that applications under this call will not lead to an increased adverse impact of the current climate or the expected future climate, on people, nature, or assets or will lead to a reduction in the adverse impact of the current climate or the expected future climate, on people, nature, or assets.

By answering “No”, you are providing the following confirmations:

- That a Climate Proofing Assessment (see Appendix 4) has been completed that outlines that the activities to be undertaken as part of the project have been screened and a robust climate risk and vulnerability assessment has been undertaken, which shows these activities do not have an adverse impact on the Climate -Related Hazards, as outlined in Section II of Appendix A (outlined below) of the Commission delegated Regulation (EU) 2021/2139⁵⁴ supplement Regulation (EU) 2020/852⁵⁵ of the European Parliament and of the Council, during its expected lifetime.
- Works should comply with the criteria set out in Appendix A of the Northern and Western Regional Programme DNSH Assessment for climate change adaption.
- This assessment outlines how the activities are assessed not to be at risk from one or more of the physical climate risks listed in Section II below.
- Where the assessment undertaken shows that the activity is at risk from one or more of the physical climate risks listed in Section II below, then the answer will be changed to “Yes” and Table 2 will be completed.

Section II Table – Classification of Climate-Related Hazards

	Temperature Related	Wind Related	Water Related	Solid Mass Related
Chronic	•Changing temperature (air,	•Changing wind patterns	•Changing precipitation patterns and	•Costal erosion •Soil degradation •Soil erosion

⁵⁴ [Regulation \(EU\) 2021/2139](#) - COMMISSION DELEGATED REGULATION (EU) 2021/2139 of 4 June 2021 supplementing Regulation (EU) 2020/852 of the European Parliament and of the Council by establishing the technical screening criteria for determining the conditions under which an economic activity qualifies as contributing substantially to climate change mitigation or climate change adaptation and for determining whether that economic activity causes no significant harm to any of the other environmental objectives

⁵⁵ [Regulation \(EU\) 2020/852](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 June 2020 on the establishment of a framework to facilitate sustainable investment, and amending Regulation (EU) 2019/2088



	freshwater, marine water) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Heat stress •Temperature variability •Permafrost thawing 		types (rain, hail, snow/ice) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Precipitation or hydrological variability •Ocean acidification •Saline intrusion •Sea level rise •Water stress 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Solifluction
Acute	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Acute heat wave •Cold wave/frost •Wildfire 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Cyclone, hurricane, typhoon •Storm (including blizzards, dust, and sandstorms) •Tornado 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Drought •Heavy precipitation (rain, hail, snow/ice) •Flood (coastal, fluvial, pluvial, ground water) •Glacial lake outburst 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Avalanche •Landslide •Subsidence

The list of climate-related hazards in this table is non-exhaustive and constitutes only an indicative list of most widespread hazards that are to be considered as a minimum in the climate risk and vulnerability assessment.

Positive Interventions for new or refurbishment for buildings should target:

- Architectural design to take into account climate proofing guidelines, climate-related hazards modelling and enable the adaptation of construction and infrastructure, including building codes and integrated management systems.
- Nature-based solutions and blue or green infrastructure.
- Adaptation solutions that substantially reduce the most important physical climate risks that are material to that activity.

Sustainable Use and Protection of Water and Marine Resources	Yes/No	Describe how are the activities funded under the scheme will not lead to <u>significant detrimental impact on the good status or the good ecological potential of bodies of water</u> , including surface water and	<u>If applicable</u> , comment on Positive Contributions/Interventions to the Sustainable Use and Protection of Water and Marine Resources – How will activities <u>reduce the detrimental impact on</u>
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		groundwater or to the good environmental status of marine waters?	<u>the good status or the good ecological potential of bodies of water</u> , including surface water and groundwater or to the good environmental status of marine waters?
Are the activities funded under the scheme expected to lead to a detrimental impact on the good status or the good ecological potential of bodies of water, including surface water and groundwater or to the good environmental status of marine waters?			

If the answer above is “Yes” then please also complete Table 2.

It is expected that the applications to this call will not lead to a detrimental impact on the good status or the good ecological potential of bodies of water, including surface water and groundwater or the good environmental status of marine water or will lead to a reduction in the detrimental impact on the good status or the good ecological potential of bodies of water, including surface water and groundwater or the good environmental status of marine water.

By answering “No”, you are confirming:

- That the activities funded under the scheme will not lead to a detrimental impact on the good status or the good ecological potential of bodies of water, including surface water and groundwater or the good environmental status of marine water or will lead to a reduction in the detrimental impact on the good status or the good ecological potential



of bodies of water, including surface water and groundwater or the good environmental status of marine water.

- Works should comply with the criteria set out in Appendix B of the Northern and Western Regional Programme DNSH Assessment for the sustainable use and protection of water and marine resources.

Positive Interventions for new or refurbishment for buildings should target:

- Building designs and construction that is consistent with local, sectoral, regional, or national adaptation plans and strategies for environmental degradation risks related to preserving water quality and water stress.
- Where applicable building designs should specify details of water fittings or water-using appliances being installed and their compliance with the relevant standards.
- Implementation of a Sustainable Urban Drainage System within the project.

Transition to a Circular Economy including waste prevention and recycling	Yes/No	Describe how the activities will not <u>lead to significant inefficiencies in the use of materials or in the direct or indirect use of natural resources</u> or to significantly increase the <u>generation, incineration or disposal of waste and the long-term disposal of waste</u> which is expected to cause significant or long-term environmental harm?	<u>If applicable</u> , comment on Positive Contributions/Interventions to the Circular Economy including waste prevention and recycling – How will activities lead to <u>significant efficiencies in the use of materials or in the direct or indirect use of natural resources</u> or to significantly decrease the <u>generation, incineration or disposal of waste</u> and the long-term disposal of waste which is expected to reduce significant or long-term environmental harm?
Are the activities funded under the scheme expected to lead to significant inefficiencies in the use of materials or in the direct or indirect use of natural			



resources or to significantly increase the generation, incineration or disposal of waste and the long-term disposal of waste which is expected to cause significant or long-term environmental harm?

If the answer above is “Yes” then please also complete Table 2.

It is expected that applications under this call are not expected to lead to significant inefficiencies in the use of materials or in the direct or indirect use of natural resources or to significantly increase the generation, incineration or disposal of waste and the long-term disposal of waste which is not expected to cause significant or long-term environmental harm.

By answering “No”, you are providing the following confirmations:

- That the activity does not lead to significant inefficiencies in the use of materials or in the direct or indirect use of natural resources such as non-renewable energy sources, raw materials, water, and land at one or more stages of the life cycle of products, including in terms of durability, reparability, upgradability, reusability, or recyclability of products;
- That any equipment installed assesses the availability of and, where feasible, uses equipment and components of high durability and recyclability and that are easy to dismantle and refurbish.
- At least 70 % (by weight) of the non-hazardous construction and demolition waste (excluding naturally occurring material referred to in category 17 05 04 in the European List of Waste established by Decision 2000/532/EC⁵⁶) generated on the construction site is prepared for reuse, recycling and other material recovery, including backfilling operations using waste to substitute other materials, in accordance with the waste hierarchy and the EU Construction and Demolition Waste Management Protocol.
- Operators should limit waste generation in processes related to construction and demolition, in accordance with the EU Construction and Demolition Waste Management Protocol and

⁵⁶ [COMMISSION DECISION of 3 May 2000](#) replacing Decision 94/3/EC establishing a list of wastes pursuant to Article 1(a) of Council Directive 75/442/EEC on waste and Council Decision 94/904/EC establishing a list of hazardous waste pursuant to Article 1(4) of Council Directive 91/689/EEC on hazardous waste



taking into account best available techniques and using selective demolition to enable removal and safe handling of hazardous substances and facilitate reuse and high-quality recycling by selective removal of materials, using available sorting systems for construction and demolition waste.

- Building designs and construction techniques (including retrofitting of derelict buildings) should support circularity and in particular demonstrate, with reference to ISO 20887 or other standards for assessing the disassembly or adaptability of buildings, how they are designed to be more resource efficient, adaptable, flexible and dismantlable to enable reuse and recycling.
- That a waste management plan is in place and ensures maximal reuse, including through contractual agreements with waste management partners.

Positive Interventions for new or refurbishment for buildings should target:

- More than 70 % (by weight) of the non-hazardous construction and demolition waste (excluding naturally occurring material referred to in category 17 05 04 in the European List of Waste established by Decision 2000/532/EC⁵⁷) generated on the construction site is prepared for reuse, recycling and other material recovery, including backfilling operations using waste to substitute other materials, in accordance with the waste hierarchy and the EU Construction and Demolition Waste Management Protocol.
- That a waste management plan is in place that ensures maximal recycling at end of life of electrical and electronic equipment, including through contractual agreements with recycling partners, reflection in financial projections or official project documentation and at its end of life, the equipment undergoes preparation for reuse, recovery or recycling operations, or proper treatment, including the removal of all fluids and a selective treatment in accordance with Annex VII to Directive 2012/19/EU⁵⁸ of the European Parliament and of the Council.
- That the equipment used meets the requirements laid down in Directive 2009/125/EC⁵⁹ for servers and data storage products and that the equipment used does not contain the restricted substances listed in Annex II to Directive 2011/65/EU⁶⁰ of the European Parliament and of the Council, except where the concentration values by weight in homogeneous materials do not exceed the max values listed in that Annex.

Pollution Prevention and Control	Yes/No	Describe how the activities funded under the scheme will not lead to <u>significant increase</u>	If applicable, comment on Positive Contributions/Interventions to
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⁵⁷ [COMMISSION DECISION of 3 May 2000](#) replacing Decision 94/3/EC establishing a list of wastes pursuant to Article 1(a) of Council Directive 75/442/EEC on waste and Council Decision 94/904/EC establishing a list of hazardous waste pursuant to Article 1(4) of Council Directive 91/689/EEC on hazardous waste

⁵⁸ [Directive \(EU\) 2012/19](#) of the European Parliament and the Council on waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE)

⁵⁹ [Directive \(EU\) 2009/125](#) of the European Parliament and the Council establishing a framework for the setting of eco-design requirements for energy related products (recast)

⁶⁰ [Directive \(EU\) 2011/65](#) of the European Parliament and the Council on the restriction of the use of certain hazardous substances in electrical and electronic equipment



		<u>in the emissions of pollutants into air, water, or land?</u>	Pollution Prevention and Control - How will the activities funded Under DREIS <u>reduce the emissions of pollutants into air, water, or land?</u>
Are the activities funded under the scheme expected to lead to a significant increase in the emissions of pollutants into air, water, or land , as compared with the situation before the activity started?			

If the answer above is “Yes” then please also complete Table 2.

It is expected that applications under this call are not expected to lead to any significant increases in the emissions of pollutants into air, water, or land, or it is expected that the activities may reduce the emissions of pollutants into air, water, or land.

By answering “No”, you are confirming that the activities funded under the scheme will not lead to lead to any significant increases in the emissions of pollutants into air, water, or land, or it is expected that the activities may reduce the emissions of pollutants into air, water, or land and:

- Building components and materials used in the construction should comply with the criteria set out in Appendix C of Northern and Western Regional Programme DNSH Assessment.
- Where thermal insulation to an existing building envelope is to be undertaken, that a building survey is carried out in accordance with national law by a competent specialist with training in asbestos surveying. Any stripping of lagging that contains or is likely to contain asbestos, breaking or mechanical drilling or screwing or removal of insulation board, tiles and other asbestos containing materials is carried out by appropriately trained personnel, with health monitoring before, during and after the works, in accordance with national law.



- Measures are in place to reduce noise, dust and pollutant emissions during construction and maintenance works.
- Building components and materials used in the construction that may come into contact with occupiers should emit less than 0,06 mg of formaldehyde per m³ of material or component upon testing in accordance with the conditions specified in Annex XVII to Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006⁶¹ and less than 0,001 mg of other categories 1A and 1B carcinogenic volatile organic compounds per m³ of material or component, upon testing in accordance with CEN/EN 16516 or ISO 16000-3 or other equivalent standardised test conditions and determination methods.
- Works should comply with the criteria set out in Appendix C of the Northern and Western Regional Programme DNSH Assessment for pollution prevention and control regarding the use and presence of chemicals.
- Works should comply with the criteria set out in Appendix E of the Northern and Western Regional Programme DNSH Assessment for the technical specifications for water appliances.

Positive Interventions for new or refurbishment for buildings should target:

- Building components and materials used in the construction that may come into contact with occupiers should emit less than 0,05 mg of formaldehyde per m³ of material or component upon testing in accordance with the conditions specified in Annex XVII to Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006⁶² and less than 0,001 mg of other categories 1A and 1B carcinogenic volatile organic compounds per m³ of material or component, upon testing in accordance with CEN/EN 16516 or ISO 16000-3 or other equivalent standardised test conditions and determination methods.
- Noise and vibrations are mitigated by introducing open trenches, wall barriers or other measures and comply with Directive 2002/49/EC⁶³.
- Derelict buildings that are fitted with air-to-air heat pumps have a rated capacity of 12kW or below and indoor and outdoor sound power levels are below the threshold set out in Commission Regulation (EU) 206/2012⁶⁴.

⁶¹ [REGULATION \(EC\) No 1907/2006 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL](#) of 18 December 2006 concerning the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH), establishing a European Chemicals Agency, amending Directive 1999/45/EC and repealing Council Regulation (EEC) No 793/93 and Commission Regulation (EC) No 1488/94 as well as Council Directive 76/769/EEC and Commission Directives 91/155/EEC, 93/67/EEC, 93/105/EC and 2000/21/EC

⁶² [REGULATION \(EC\) No 1907/2006 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL](#) of 18 December 2006 concerning the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH), establishing a European Chemicals Agency, amending Directive 1999/45/EC and repealing Council Regulation (EEC) No 793/93 and Commission Regulation (EC) No 1488/94 as well as Council Directive 76/769/EEC and Commission Directives 91/155/EEC, 93/67/EEC, 93/105/EC and 2000/21/EC

⁶³ DIRECTIVE 2002/49/EC OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 25 June 2002 relating to the assessment and management of environmental noise - <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2002:189:0012:0025:en:PDF#:~:text=The%20aim%20of%20this%20Directive,to%20exposure%20to%20environmental%20noise.>

⁶⁴ COMMISSION REGULATION (EU) No 206/2012 of 6 March 2012 implementing Directive 2009/125/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council with regard to eco-design requirements for air conditioners and comfort fans - <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2012:072:0007:0027:en:PDF>



Protection and Restoration of Biodiversity and Ecosystems	Yes/No	Describe how the activities funded under the scheme are not expected <u>to be significantly detrimental to the good condition and resilience of ecosystems or not to be detrimental to the conservation status of habitats and species</u> , including those of the interest to the European Union?	<u>If applicable</u> , comment on Positive Contributions/Interventions to the protection, restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems – How will the activities <u>improve the condition and resilience of ecosystems or the conservation status of habitats and species</u> , including those of the interest to the European Union?
Are the activities funded under the scheme expected to be significantly detrimental to the good condition and resilience of ecosystems or be detrimental to the conservation status of habitats and species , including those of the interest to the European Union?			
<p>If the answer above is “Yes” then please also complete Table 2.</p> <p>It is expected that applications under this call are not expected to be significantly detrimental to the good condition and resilience of ecosystems or be detrimental to the conservation status of habitats and species, including those of the interest to the European Union, or it may improve the condition and resilience of ecosystems or improve the conservation status of habitats and species, including those of the interest to the European Union.</p>			



By answering “No”, you are confirming that the activities funded under the scheme are not expected to be significantly detrimental to the good condition and resilience of ecosystems or be detrimental to the conservation status of habitats and species, including those of the interest to the European Union and:

- Where repurposing derelict buildings that a further ecological assessment has been undertaken to identify if the building has become a habitat for any protected species prior to any renovation, repair or maintenance or other construction works to the building.
- An Environmental Impact Assessment or Screening is completed, if relevant, in accordance with Directive 2011/92/EU⁶⁵.
- For buildings in or near biodiversity-sensitive areas (including the Natura 2000 network of protected areas, UNESCO World Heritage sites and Key Biodiversity Areas, as well as other protected areas), an appropriate assessment, where applicable has been conducted and based on its conclusions the necessary mitigation measures are implemented.
- Works should comply with the criteria set out in Appendix D of the Northern and Western Region DNSH Assessment for the protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems.

Positive Interventions for new or refurbishment for buildings should target:

- Mitigation measures to prevent wildlife collisions with buildings.
- Maintenance of existing vegetation to ensure invasive species do not spread.
- When potential properties are being considered for construction, the local, regional, national and EU policy and legislation should be followed, and positive biodiversity enhancements included within the design.

⁶⁵ DIRECTIVE 2011/92/EU OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 13 December 2011 on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment - <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2012:026:0001:0021:EN:PDF>



TABLE 2 – DNSH TEMPLATE TO BE COMPLETED ONLY IF ANY ANSWERS UNDER TABLE 1 ARE YES

Climate Change Mitigation	Yes/No	Describe the most harmful impacts expected, including their intensity, extent, and risks, describe both the direct and indirect harmful impacts and describe how these impacts will be mitigated.	Links to Evidence
Are the activities expected to lead to significant GHG Emissions during the life cycle?			

If the answer in Table 1 to this question is “Yes” then please complete this section.

Please advise if the projected life cycle GHG emissions from the activities undermine the GHG mitigation objectives under the Paris Agreement or hinder the deployment of climate mitigation solutions.

Where the activities are assessed to lead to significant GHG emissions during the life cycle of these activities then please outline:

- The most harmful impacts expected, including their intensity, extent, and risks, describe both the direct and indirect harmful impacts.



- Describe how these harmful impacts will be mitigated, while respecting the relevant criteria for doing no significant harm to other environmental objectives.
- Where it is not possible to mitigate all of the increased GHG emissions then justify the adverse impact by the lack of a better environmental alternatives which are not disproportionately costly/technically unfeasible, and all practicable steps have been taken to mitigate the adverse impact.

Climate Change Adaption	Yes/No	Describe the most harmful impacts expected, including their intensity, extent, and risks, describe both the direct and indirect harmful impacts and describe how these impacts will be mitigated.	Links to Evidence
Are the activities expected to lead to an increased adverse impact of the current climate and the expected future climate , on the activity itself or on people, nature, or assets?			

If the answer in Table 1 to this question is “Yes” then please complete this section

Where the activities are assessed to lead to significant increased adverse impact of the current climate or future climate then please outline:

- For existing activities and new activities using existing physical assets, the economic operator should implement physical and non-physical solutions (‘adaptation solutions’), over a period of time of up to five years, that reduce the most important identified physical climate risks that are material to that activity.
- An adaptation plan for the implementation of those solutions is drawn up accordingly. For new activities and existing activities using newly built physical assets, the economic operator should integrate the adaptation solutions that reduce the most important identified physical



climate risks that are material to that activity at the time of design and construction and has implemented them before the start of operations.

- The adaptation solutions implemented should not adversely affect the adaptation efforts or the level of resilience to physical climate risks of other people, of nature, of cultural heritage, of assets and of other economic activities; should be consistent with local, sectoral, regional, or national adaptation strategies and plans; and consider the use of nature-based solutions or rely on blue or green infrastructure to the extent possible.

Adaption Strategy should also be completed by reference to the following:

- Assessments Reports on Climate Change: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability, published periodically by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the United Nations body for assessing the science related to climate change produces. Link: <https://www.ipcc.ch/reports/>. Such as Copernicus services managed by the European Commission.
- Nature-based solutions are defined as ‘solutions that are inspired and supported by nature, which are cost-effective, simultaneously provide environmental, social, and economic benefits and help build resilience. Such solutions bring more, and more diverse, nature and natural features and processes into cities, landscapes, and seascapes, through locally adapted, resource-efficient, and systemic interventions.
- Therefore, nature-based solutions benefit biodiversity and support the delivery of a range of ecosystem services. Link: <https://ec.europa.eu/research/environment/index.cfm?pg=nbs>).
- Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions: Green Infrastructure (GI) — Enhancing Europe’s Natural Capital (COM/2013/0249 final). Link: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A52013DC0249>

Sustainable Use and Protection of Water and Marine Resources	Yes/No	Describe the most harmful impacts expected, including their intensity, extent, and risks, describe both the direct and indirect harmful impacts and describe how these impacts will be mitigated.	Links to Evidence
Are the activities expected to lead to a detrimental impact on the good status or the good ecological potential of			



<p>bodies of water, including surface water and groundwater or to the good environmental status of marine waters?</p>			
<p>If the answer in Table 1 to this question is “Yes” then please complete this section</p> <p><u>Where the activities are assessed to lead to significant increased adverse impact on the good status or the good ecological potential of bodies of water, including surface water and groundwater, or to the good environmental status of marine waters then please outline:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of environmental degradation risks related to preserving water quality and avoiding water stress and how these will be addressed with the aim of achieving good water status and good ecological potential as defined in Article 2, points (22) and (23), of Regulation (EU) 2020/852, in accordance with Directive 2000/60/EC⁶⁶ and a water use and protection management plan should be put in place, developed thereunder for the potentially affected water body or bodies, in consultation with relevant stakeholders. This assessment and consultation should consider the impact of the activities on the affected water bodies, advise how the deterioration or prevention of good status/ecological potential can be avoided or where this is not possible justify the adverse impact by the lack of a better environmental alternatives which are not disproportionately costly/technically unfeasible, and all practicable steps have been taken to mitigate the adverse impact on the status of the water bodies. • Where an Environmental Impact Assessment is carried out in accordance with Directive 2011/92/EU⁶⁷ and includes an assessment of the impact on water in accordance with Directive 2000/60/EC, no additional assessment of impact on water is required, provided the risks identified have been addressed. 			
<p>Transition to a Circular Economy</p>	<p>Yes/No</p>	<p>Describe the most harmful impacts expected, including their intensity, extent, and risks, describe both the direct and indirect harmful impacts and describe how these impacts will be mitigated.</p>	<p>Links to Evidence</p>

⁶⁶ [Directive 2000/60/EC](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council on establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy

⁶⁷ [DIRECTIVE 2011/92/EU](#) Of the European Parliament and of the Council on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment



<p>Are the activities expected to lead to significant inefficiencies in the use of materials or in the direct or indirect use of natural resources or to significantly increase the generation, incineration or disposal of waste and the long-term disposal of waste is expected to cause significant or long-term environmental harm?</p>			
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If the answer in Table 1 to this question is “Yes” then please complete this section

Where the activities are assessed to lead to significant inefficiencies in the use of materials or increase the generation of incineration or disposal of waste then please outline:

- Details of any significant increases in the generation, incineration, or disposal of waste, with the exception of the incineration of the non-recyclable hazardous waste and how this will be mitigated.
- Details of inefficiencies in the direct or indirect use of any natural material or resource at any stage of its life cycle and how this will be mitigated.
- Details of any long-term harm to the environment in respect of the circular economy and how this will be mitigated.
- Details of the need for equipment that does not meet the requirements laid down in Directive 2009/125/EC for servers and data storage products or which contain restricted substances listed in Annex II to Directive 2011/65/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council, except where



the concentration values by weight in homogeneous materials do not exceed the maximum values listed in that Annex and why this is essential to the project.

- Confirm there is a waste management plan in place that ensures maximal recycling at end of life of electrical and electronic equipment, including through contractual agreements with recycling partners, reflection in financial projections or official project documentation. At its end of life, the equipment undergoes preparation for reuse, recovery or recycling operations, or proper treatment, including the removal of all fluids and a selective treatment in accordance with Annex VII to Directive 2012/19/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council.

Pollution Prevention and Control	Yes/No	Describe the most harmful impacts expected, including their intensity, extent, and risks, describe both the direct and indirect harmful impacts and describe how these impacts will be mitigated.	Links to Evidence
Are the activities expected to lead to a significant increase in the emissions of pollutants into air, water, or land?			

If the answer in Table 1 to this question is “Yes” then please complete this section.

Where the activities are assessed to lead to significant increase in emissions of pollutants into air, water or land then please outline:

- How will this be mitigated and what solutions will be put in place.
- This should include confirmation that the activity does not lead to the manufacture, placing on the market or use of:
 - substances, whether on their own, in mixtures or in articles, listed in Annexes I or II to Regulation (EU) 2019/1021⁶⁸, except in the case of substances present as an unintentional trace contaminant.
 - mercury and mercury compounds, their mixtures and mercury-added products as defined in Article 2 of Regulation (EU) 2017/852⁶⁹;

⁶⁸ Regulation (EU) 2019/1021 of the European Parliament and of the Council on persistent organic pollutants

⁶⁹ Regulation (EU) 2017/852 of the European Parliament and of the Council on mercury and repealing Regulation (EC) 1102/2008



- iii. substances, whether on their own, in mixture or in articles, listed in Annex I or II to Regulation (EC) 1005/2009⁷⁰;
- iv. substances, whether on their own, in mixtures or in an activity, listed in Annex II to Directive 2011/65/EU⁷¹, except where there is full compliance with Article 4(1) of that Directive.
- v. substances, whether on their own, in mixtures or in an article, listed in Annex XVII to Regulation (EC) 1907/2006⁷², except where there is full compliance with the conditions specified in that Annex.
- vi. substances, whether on their own, in mixtures or in an article, meeting the criteria laid down in Article 57 of Regulation (EC) 1907/2006 and identified in accordance with Article 59(1) of that Regulation, except where their use has been proven to be essential for the society.
- vii. other substances, whether on their own, in mixtures or in an article, that meet the criteria laid down in Article 57 of Regulation (EC) 1907/2006, except where their use has been proven to be essential for the society.

Protection and Restoration of Biodiversity and Ecosystems	Yes/No	Describe the most harmful impacts expected, including their intensity, extent, and risks, describe both the direct and indirect harmful impacts and describe how these impacts will be mitigated.	Links to Evidence
Are the activities expected to be significantly detrimental to the good condition and resilience of ecosystems or be detrimental to the conservation status of habitats and species, including those			

⁷⁰ [Regulation \(EC\) 1005/2009](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council on substances that deplete the ozone layer

⁷¹ [Directive 2011/65/EU](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council on the restriction of the use of certain hazardous substances in electrical and electronic equipment

⁷² [Regulation \(EC\) 1907/2006](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the registration, evaluation, authorisation, and restriction of chemicals, establishing a European Chemicals Agency.



of the interest
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Union?

If the answer in Table 1 to this question is “Yes” then please complete this section.

Where the activities are assessed are detrimental to the good condition and resilience of ecosystems or are detrimental to the conservation status of habitats and species then please outline:

- The potential risks to the good condition or resilience of ecosystems or to the conservation status of habitats and species and how these will be addressed.
- Confirmation that an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) or screening has been completed in accordance with Directive 2011/92/EU⁷³.
- Confirmation that where an EIA has been carried out, the required mitigation and compensation measures for protecting the environment are implemented.
- For sites where an EIA has not been carried out then an assessment must be carried out to determine if an EIA is required in line with annex II to Directive 2011/92EU and Article 4 (2) of that Directive.
- Confirmation that for sites/operations located in or near biodiversity-sensitive areas (including the Natura 2000 network of protected areas, UNESCO World Heritage sites and Key Biodiversity Areas, as well as other protected areas), an appropriate assessment, where applicable, has been conducted and based on its conclusions the necessary mitigation measures are implemented.
- Confirmation that measures have been identified to ensure that the activity will not have any significant effects on the conservation objectives of the protected area.

⁷³ [Directive 2011/92/EU](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment



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Regional Assembly

APPENDIX 7 - PROPOSED BUDGET EXPENDITURE

Strand 2 applications should pay particular attention to the definition for direct costs, how to calculate direct costs, indirect costs, consultancy fees etc. within the application form to ensure accuracy within your proposed budget.

For Strand 2 applications please complete the budget summary table in appendix 7 of the Application a document detailing the proposed budget summary with detailed architectural drawings for the project. This is based on the assumption that Order of Magnitude costs has been completed at Project Stage 1.



APPENDIX 8 - PROPOSED TIMELINE FOR DELIVERY

STRAND 1 - PROPOSED TIMELINE FOR DELIVERY

Please complete the Gantt Chart outlining your timelines for completion of each of the 11 activities. These activities are as follows:

- Request for Tender Preparation
- Request for Tender Open
- Evaluation of Request for Tender
- Consultant Contract Awarded
- Stakeholder Co-Creation Workshop
- Citizen Co-Creation Workshop
- Draft Integrated Urban Strategy Completed
- Stakeholder Feedback Obtained
- Citizen Feedback Obtained
- Internal Review of Integrated Urban Strategy
- Approval by the Local Authority of Integrated Urban Strategy

These activities are for guidance only and depending on if your application is for funding a new Integrated Urban Strategy or developing an existing Integrated Urban Strategy or the prioritisation, design, development or specification of a specific project proposal, then the activities you will need to undertake may be different.

These activities can be changed if required, this can be done by double clicking on the graph and then going to Edit Data on the tool bar and clicking the arrow button. You will be given two options **For** – Edit Data or Edit Data in Excel. Click on the Edit Data in Excel option and then simply update Column A with your activities. Please be mindful that the activities are in reverse order in the Excel Spreadsheet. In addition, you now need to update the start date and end date of each of the activities. Update the column B with the start date of each activity and column C with the end date of each activity. Then close out of Excel and the Gantt Chart will update automatically with your schedule for completion of each of the activities.

STRAND 2 – PROPOSED TIMELINE FOR DELIVERY

Please complete the Gantt Chart outlining your timelines for completion of each of the 6 activities. These activities are as follows:

- Project Conception, Design & Planning
- Building Permits
- Pre-Construction
- Construction



- Post Construction
- Handover

These activities are for guidance only and may be changed as required. It is expected that this summary Gantt Chart will be supplemented by a fully comprehensive Gantt detailing each stage for Strand 2 application. Please note than any mitigation measures required for the protection of the environment or protected species/habitats (e.g. certain works not to be carried out at a certain time of year) should be factored into construction timelines.