



**Waterford City and County Council fights off stiff competition to win the “Supporting Tourism Category” for the Waterford Greenway, at Chambers Ireland, Excellence in Local Government Awards 2017**

Waterford City and County Council has deservedly won first prize at the Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government awards in the ‘Supporting Tourism’ Category for the Waterford Greenway project. The award was presented to Cllr Joe Conway, Deputy Mayor of the City and County of Waterford at an event held in Dublin on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2017.

The award was presented in recognition of the development of the 46km off-road shared use Greenway along an old railway line between Waterford City and Dungarvan, which was developed by Waterford City and County Council with the assistance of state funding. Waterford Greenway is an important national tourism asset with the potential to be one of the key signature experiences in Ireland’s Ancient East encouraging visitors to engage with the wider tourism experience in Waterford in a meaningful and authentic way.

Greenways have a particularly strong appeal to visitors, both domestic and overseas. There is a rise in the popularity of walking and cycling holidays, while emerging consumer trends are towards good health, self-improvement and wellbeing.

Cllr Joe Conway said “Waterford Greenway is expected to provide a positive effect on increasing business in line with that experienced in similar projects within Ireland, such as the Great Western Greenway where 46.7% of local businesses have reported an increase in turnover. We are very fortunate and appreciative of this opportunity in Waterford”.

ENDS



**(Left to right)**

Aidan O'Reilly, Principal Officer, Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government, Paul Daly, Senior Engineer, Waterford Council, Paul Keeley, Director of Business Development at Fáilte Ireland, Cllr. Joe Conway, Waterford (Deputy Mayor), Ian Talbot, Chief Executive Chambers Ireland,

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