

Simon COVENEY TD

Ambitious for Cork, delivering in Government



OCTOBER 2015

1300 Jobs
created every
week in 2015

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Cork Airport
Secures First
Transatlantic
Routes

p2



LÉ James Joyce
Commissioned

p4



CORK PRIORITISED €650M FOR PROJECTS

- N28 Cork to Ringaskiddy
- Dunkettle interchange
- N22 Macroom to Ballyvourney Scheme
- Major Flood Defence Scheme
- Events Centre
- Pairc Uí Chaoimh
- IMERC
- Haulbowline
- Mallow relief road



Government announced funding for spending on key Capital Projects and Cork was a clear winner receiving more than €650m for projects throughout the City & County.

It is crucial that investment in our infrastructure is given priority in Cork so we can continue to grow economic opportunities and jobs. This announcement is evidence of this Government's determination to build the necessary infrastructure in Cork –making it a significant alternative to Dublin for economic growth and job creation.

For people living in commuter towns such as Carrigaline, Roch-

estown, Douglas, Grange Frankfield, Macroom and Mallow, the funding announced for major road projects, including the Dunkettle interchange and N28, will come as very welcome news. These are projects that were overlooked during the boom times, but they are now being prioritised by this Government. The scale of the funding announced is a reflection of the ambition for growth and investment in the Cork area.

Homes and businesses in Cork have suffered losses far too often due to floods. The funding announced for the Major Flood Defence Scheme confirms this Government's commitment to re-

spond. Cork's new flood defence scheme will be managed by the OPW and will be the largest ever flood relief project in the country once completed. There is a clear commitment to beginning work in 2016.

As expected the Government's commitment of €30m for the building of a new Pairc Uí Chaoimh and €12m for the city's Events Centre are also confirmed.

In the report published, the Government has singled out the Irish Marine Energy Resource Cluster (IMERC) in Cork Harbour for special mention. Detailed proposals for a number of innovative projects are being finalised and

will be funded in the new capital plan. While €60m has been confirmed for the clean-up on Haulbowline Island, an estimated €25m will be made available to support IMERC projects in the lifetime of the next Government.

A hugely important element of the Capital Project announcements are the jobs that will be created by these large infrastructure projects - 45,000 nationally in total. With the number and scale of projects in Cork there will be a significant jobs boost for the construction industry and related industries as a result.

1,300 JOBS CREATED EVERY WEEK IN 2015

To date 1,300 jobs a week have been created in 2015. In total this Government has delivered more than 125,000 jobs since the launch of Action Plan for Jobs in 2012 and the latest figures from the Central Statistics Office (CSO) show that unemployment is at a six-year low of 9.5%.

These figures show very strong job growth,

with a continuing marked decline in unemployment. It is clear that Ireland is now reaping the employment benefits of the careful management of the economy since 2011. We are moving in the right direction, but any momentum gained can be easily lost by a change of focus or a change in policy.



QUINLAN'S SEAFOOD CREATES 120 NEW JOBS.

It is particularly important to see family-owned small and medium enterprises now starting to expand and create jobs, so I was happy to announce 120 new jobs at Quinlan's Seafood thanks to a major expansion of their restaurant chain. New CSO figures show that Irish emigration continues to fall – but we need businesses, like Quinlan's, to continue to expand because this is where we are going to create the much-needed jobs for our young people.

APC CREATES 50 JOBS IN CORK

I announced the creation of 50 new jobs at APC, the national centre for excellence in food and medicine research in Cork. These 50 jobs come on top of the 90 existing positions in the APC. Government policy is directed at funding research and development to create high-tech job opportunities such as these and APC is to be commended for the fact that it is now providing direct employment for 140 researchers.

UNITED TECHNOLOGIES RESEARCH CENTRE CREATES 25 JOBS IN CORK

United Technologies Research Centre (UTRC), the research and innovation arm of United Technologies Corp, in expanding its Irish facility to include aerospace research. The expansion will create 25 highly skilled roles in Cork and is a clear demonstration of the region's ability to provide a highly skilled workforce for this type of activity.

80 JOBS CREATED AT NEW DEPUY FACILITY IN RINGASKIDDY

I was delighted to officially open the new €53.2 million manufacturing plant at DePuy Synthes in June. The opening of the new facility at the plant, which manufactures orthopaedic products, has created an additional 80 new jobs to the estimated 800 positions already at the site in Ringaskiddy.

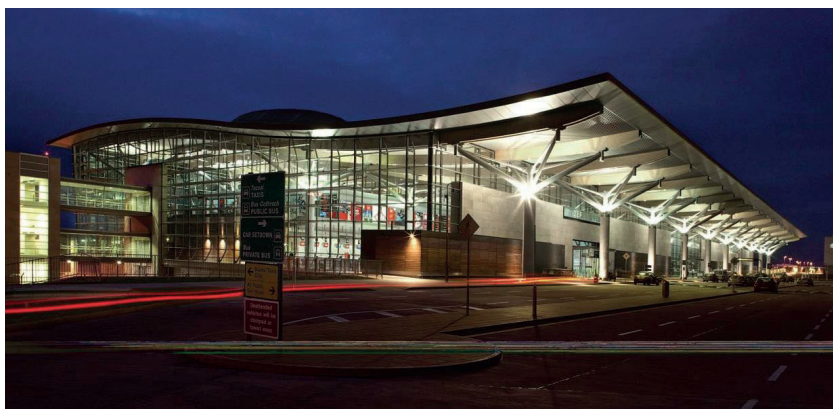
CORK AIRPORT SECURES FIRST TRANSATLANTIC ROUTES

Cork Airport has secured its first ever scheduled transatlantic service. Norwegian Air International (NAI) has confirmed that it plans to operate a direct Cork-Boston service from next May with 4-5 flights per week. The airline also announced plans for an additional transatlantic route servicing Cork-New York in 2017, and a Cork-Barcelona service planned from May 2016.

Ryanair also recently reiterated that it

wants to continue to develop more services out of Cork Airport. And CityJet announced a new route from Cork that will service London City Airport in September.

Cork Airport is once again seeing strong passenger growth which is due to the number of new routes added in recent months. These are very positive stories for Cork Airport and will provide the city, and region, with a significant boost.



CORK EVENT CENTRE

I have stated from the outset that the €150m Brewery Quarter regeneration project would be up and running by the autumn, and I maintain that is still going to be the case. Commercial discussions between BAM and Live Nation are ongoing. Government is investing €20 million of public money in this project – there are very few projects in the country getting that kind of funding. I think we'll see this project start in the next couple of months.



Leo and Hannah Jordan pictured with Minister Simon Coveney TD at the launch of the "Tales from Riverside Farm" children's story books written by their mother Alma Jordan, a farmer's wife from Co. Meath and founder of AgriKids.

BLAS NA hEIREANN 'PRODUCERS HERO 2015'

I am humbled to have been awarded the prestigious 'Producers Hero 2015' as part of the Blas na hEireann Irish Food Awards which took place in Dingle on 3rd of October.

This award means a lot to me as it has been voted for by 2000 Irish food producers

in recognition of the work that I have done to promote small to medium sized producers at home, and abroad.

I would like to thank the passionate and talented food producers from across Ireland who work hard to put the finest Irish produce on the map.



Minister Coveney pictured at the launch of the Blas Na hEireann Irish Food Awards 2015

GOVERNMENT'S POLICY ON DEFENCE

I recently published the Government's White Paper on Defence which sets out Ireland's defence policy framework for the next 10 years. This is based on a forward looking assessment of the security environment, including the defence contribution to international peace and security.

This White Paper reflects the wider Defence and Security Policy framework and the increasingly complex nature of security threats in the world today. I think Ireland has under-invested in defence and we need to correct that.

The paper includes a new employment support scheme for 18-24-year-olds who come from a disadvantaged background. More women are being encouraged to sign up to the Defence Forces and we are aiming to double the number of women currently in service.

If you look at the actions of the defence forces in the Mediterranean at present, or of those on peace-keeping missions - it's clear that it's a very exciting career that is there for the taking. For both men and women.



Pictured at the launch of the White Paper in Dublin Castle are Deputy Chief of Staff of the Irish Defence Forces, Mark Mellet, Defence Forces Chief of Staff Lt Gen Conor Doyle, Minister Simon Coveney TD and Secretary General at the Department of Defence Maurice Quinn.

CIVIL SERVICE GRADUATE RECRUITMENT DRIVE

Public Appointments Service has launched the 2015 Graduate recruitment campaign for the Irish civil service. There are more than 200 open positions and I would encourage recent graduates in Cork to consider applying for these positions. All those who are interested can find out more on www.gradpublicjobs.ie

ENHANCED ROLE FOR MABS

The Money Advice and Budgeting Service (MABS) now has an enhanced role in the provision of information, advice and assistance to borrowers in mortgage distress. These new measures will enable MABS to play a greater role in assisting distressed mortgage holders by targeting its resources at those most in need of assistance. For more information see www.keepingyourhome.ie or contact Cork MABS on 0761 07 2090 or email cork@mabs.ie.

THE GOOD FISH COMPANY OPENS SEAFOOD CENTRE IN CARRIGALINE

I was delighted to officially open the new The Good Fish Company Seafood Centre in Carrigaline. The new centre includes a seafood retail store and a large production facility.

The Good Fish Company received €118,500.00 in grant aid as part of the 2015 Seafood Processing Business Investment Scheme. It is fantastic to see that the scheme is now driving the expansion of the Irish seafood processing industry. I believe that we can look forward to seeing continued growth within the seafood processing sector.



WORK STARTS ON €91M CORK LOWER HARBOUR MAIN DRAINAGE PROJECT

Building work has begun on the new €91m Cork Lower Harbour Main Drainage Project. The scheme will provide enhanced wastewater treatment through the development of a new wastewater treatment plant at Shanbally, Co. Cork. The plant will serve the areas of Cobh, Carrigaline, Crosshaven, Passage West/ Monkstown and Ringaskiddy. The scheme is important in terms of protecting the environment, facilitating economic development and providing for a growing population. It is hoped that the plant will be fully operational by 2016.

EDUCATION

GAELCHOLÁISTE CHARRAIG UÍ LEIGHIN WELCOMES FIRST STUDENTS

Gaelcholáiste Charraig Uí Leighin officially welcomed its first year of students at the start of September. The new first year students are being housed in the newly renovated Waterpark House, which is the temporary home for the new Gaelcholáiste whilst the planning and construction of the permanent €19 million campus is ongoing. This is an important milestone for students and their parents, but also for the greater Carrigaline community.



Pictured with Minister Simon Coveney TD on his recent visit to Gaelcholáiste Charraig Uí Leighin are students Roibeárd Keal and Lúic Ó Rónáin.

€1 MILLION CARRIGALINE YOUTH CENTRE OPENS

I was delighted to officially open the €1m Carrigaline Lions Youth Centre at the end of September. This architecturally designed building will provide state of the art facilities for the young people of Carrigaline and will be managed by the Carrigaline & District Lions Club.

This is an absolutely incredible building and it will provide a safe, secure environment for our young people going forward. I would like to congratulate everyone involved in this project, from start to finish this has been a community effort.

IRELAND PLEDGES €60 MILLION FOR THE UN WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME

Ireland is increasing its commitment in funding to the UN World Food Programme (WFP) to €60 million over the next three years – making Ireland one of the largest per capita donors to the Programme.

The current migrant crisis demands a response. We cannot ignore the awful spectre of masses of ordinary people fleeing their home-

lands in search of safety and a better life for their loved ones. We are privileged in Europe and that privilege carries a responsibility to care for those that are less fortunate than we are.

Funding alone will not solve the crisis, however I hope that it will provide the WFP with the practical means to deliver emergency assistance to the most needy and fragile.

LÉ JAMES JOYCE COMMISSIONED



Minister Simon Coveney TD pictured at the Commissioning Ceremony for the LÉ JAMES JOYCE, the ship is the newest of the eight ships of the Naval Service and is only the second Irish Naval Service ship to be named after a world renowned Irish writer.

LÉ SAMUEL BECKETT REPLACES THE LÉ NIAMH IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

The LÉ Samuel Beckett has replaced the LÉ Niamh in the Mediterranean, extending Ireland's presence and assisting Italian authorities in humanitarian search and rescue operations.

The success of the operations carried out to date by LÉ Eithne and LÉ Niamh involving recovering over 6,000 migrants demonstrates clearly the value of Ireland's participation in this important humanitarian response. I believe that we should continue to support Italy in a practical manner as far as possible and the Italian authorities have indicated that ongoing support is welcome.

While the Irish Naval Service has been focusing on search and rescue, we can't do that forever and there really needs to be bigger and broader solutions found in order to tackle the crisis.

KEEPING CORK ON THE AGENDA AT CABINET & LOCAL LEVEL

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