



Opera Centre plans get bigger

Limerick's city centre retail space looks set for further expansion with the latest news from its new Opera Centre shopping complex.

Originally envisaged as costing around €250m, a revamped blueprint has now been rolled out, boosting the value of the project to an estimated €350m by scaling up some of the key elements. But shoppers will have to wait at least three years to enter the doors of the centre, where Marks & Spencer are rumoured to have their first outlet in the city centre.

A reconfigured scheme has been drawn up by promoter Regeneration Developments. This increases the scale of the ambitious project to

around 38,000 square metres compared with the original 28,000-square-metre plan.

The new design, by Douglas Wallace Architects, follows the acquisition by the developer of city centre buildings, including the old town hall. The additional buildings will be used to provide an improved streetscape onto Patrick Street and Ellen Street. An additional 500 basement car spaces will now be provided. Some 275 jobs will be generated during construction and some 800 once the centre is open.