



Jobs boost as Debenhams lined up for town centre

MICHAEL MORAN

A MAJOR UK retailer - believed to be Debenhams - is set to become the anchor tenant of the proposed **Sligo Town Centre** Development project.

An agreement between Callside Developments, a subsidiary of Treasury Holdings, and the retailer to occupy 46,000 square feet over three levels is in its final stages and is due to be completed between British and Irish solicitors within a matter of weeks.

The opening of the store would provide a much-needed employment boost, with the potential to create hundreds of jobs.

While there was a cautious welcome for the announcement at Monday night's meeting of Sligo Borough Council, a number of councillors repeated concerns that the multi-million euro scheme should not be further delayed, 11 years after it was first mooted.

■ CONTINUED PAGE 2

Council discuss Debenhams' plan

■ FROM FRONT

Members agreed to request representatives of Treasury to attend a meeting of the Council to discuss the latest twist.

Former Mayor, Councillor Jude Devins, threatened to withdraw his support for the project if he didn't see visible progress almost immediately. "This Borough Council has been strung along for too long now and we haven't seen a sod turned on this development yet. Surely if a new planning application has to be made this will extend the time line further. There is the possibility of objections and appeals and it could be a year to eighteen months before we see anything happening," he said.

Acting Director of Services, Paula R. Gallagher, revealed that an agreement between Callside and the retailer had been reached at the end of November.

"It is good such a large retailer is coming to Sligo, but unfortunately it will require a brand new planning application," she confirmed.